—NEW—

MODERN COUNTRY

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO RUSTIC LIVING

From the makers of
COUNTRY HOMES
& INTERIORS
HOMES & GARDENS

Digital Edition

FUTURE

THIRD EDITION

VISIT…

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Striking the balance between modern and rustic living can be quite the challenge, the need to blend the old and new and bring the outdoors in representing a myriad of obstacles and potential clashes that take a real eye for detail and plenty of patience to overcome. Fortunately, many brave souls have taken the plunge and dedicated their time and funds to renovating ageing properties, totally revamping their homes and discovering ways to harness the beauty of nature. Turn the page to discover a wealth of inspiration that can help you to reshape your home entirely or just add those final touches to finish it off. From botanical layouts to artful extensions and Scandi interiors, there's something for every prospective renovator or budding building planner.

FUTURE

MODERN COUNTRY

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contents

8 **COLOUR ON COLOUR**

13 **THE NEW BOTANICALS**

22 **OASIS OF CALM**

32 **A NEW KIND OF COUNTRY**

42 **PURE AND SIMPLE**

52 **ENGLISH ECLECTIC**

60 **PERIOD DRAMA**

70 **HISTORY REVEALED**

82 RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

92 SIMPLE PLEASURE

102 INTO THE BLUE

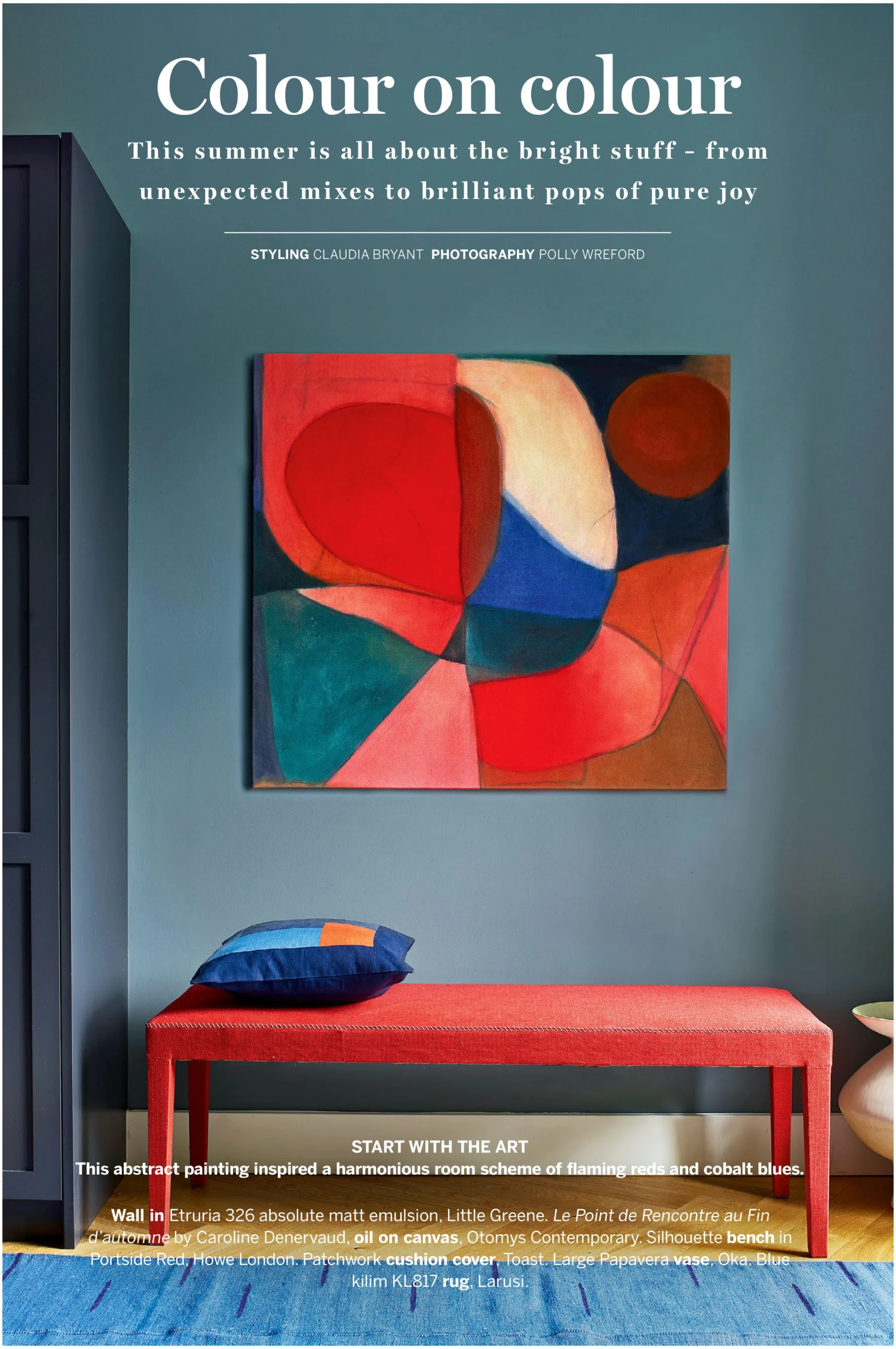
110 BESIDE THE SEA

118 IN HARMONY

Colour on colour

This summer is all about the bright stuff – from unexpected mixes to brilliant pops of pure joy

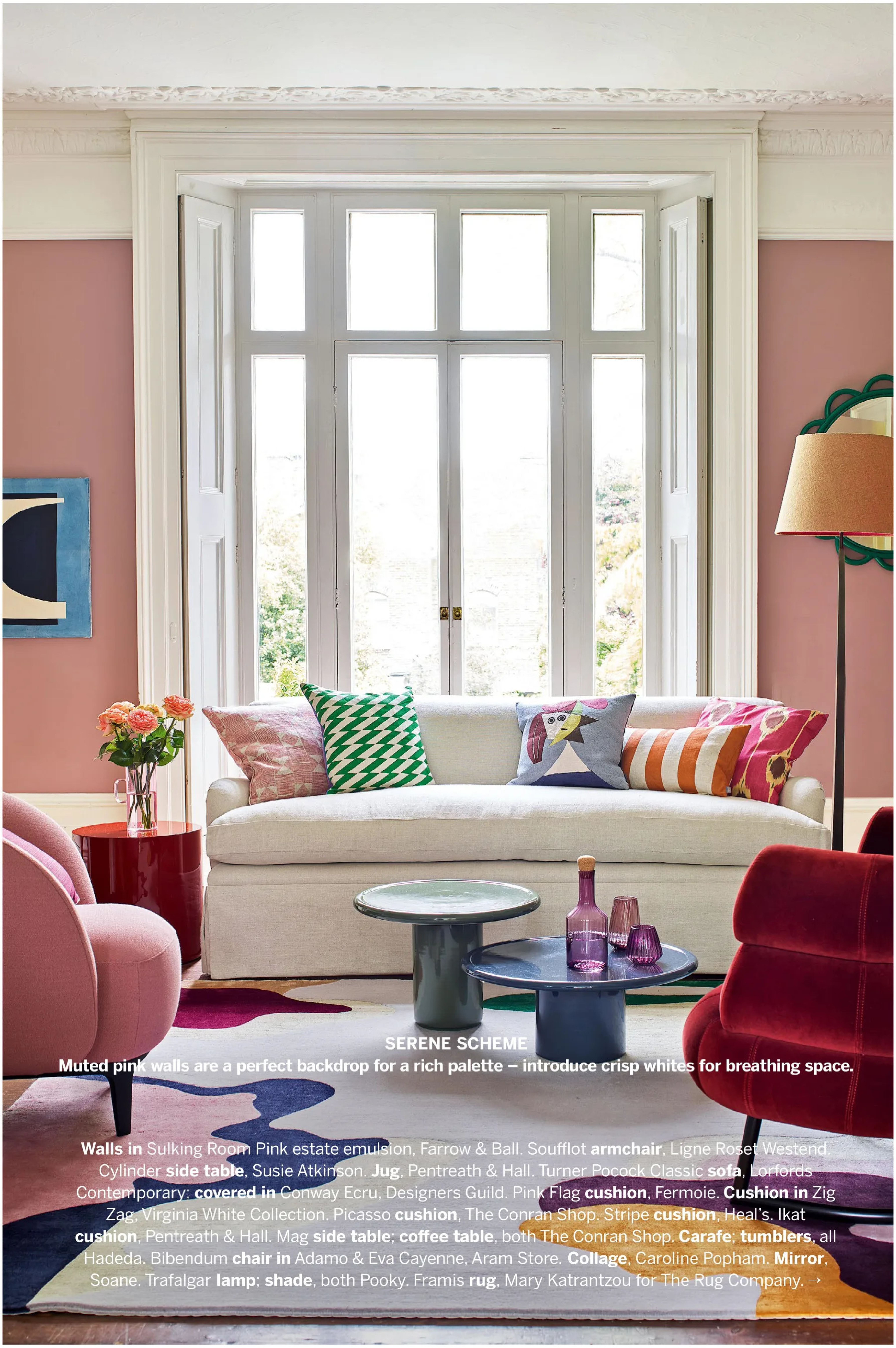
STYLING CLAUDIA BRYANT **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY WREFORD



START WITH THE ART

This abstract painting inspired a harmonious room scheme of flaming reds and cobalt blues.

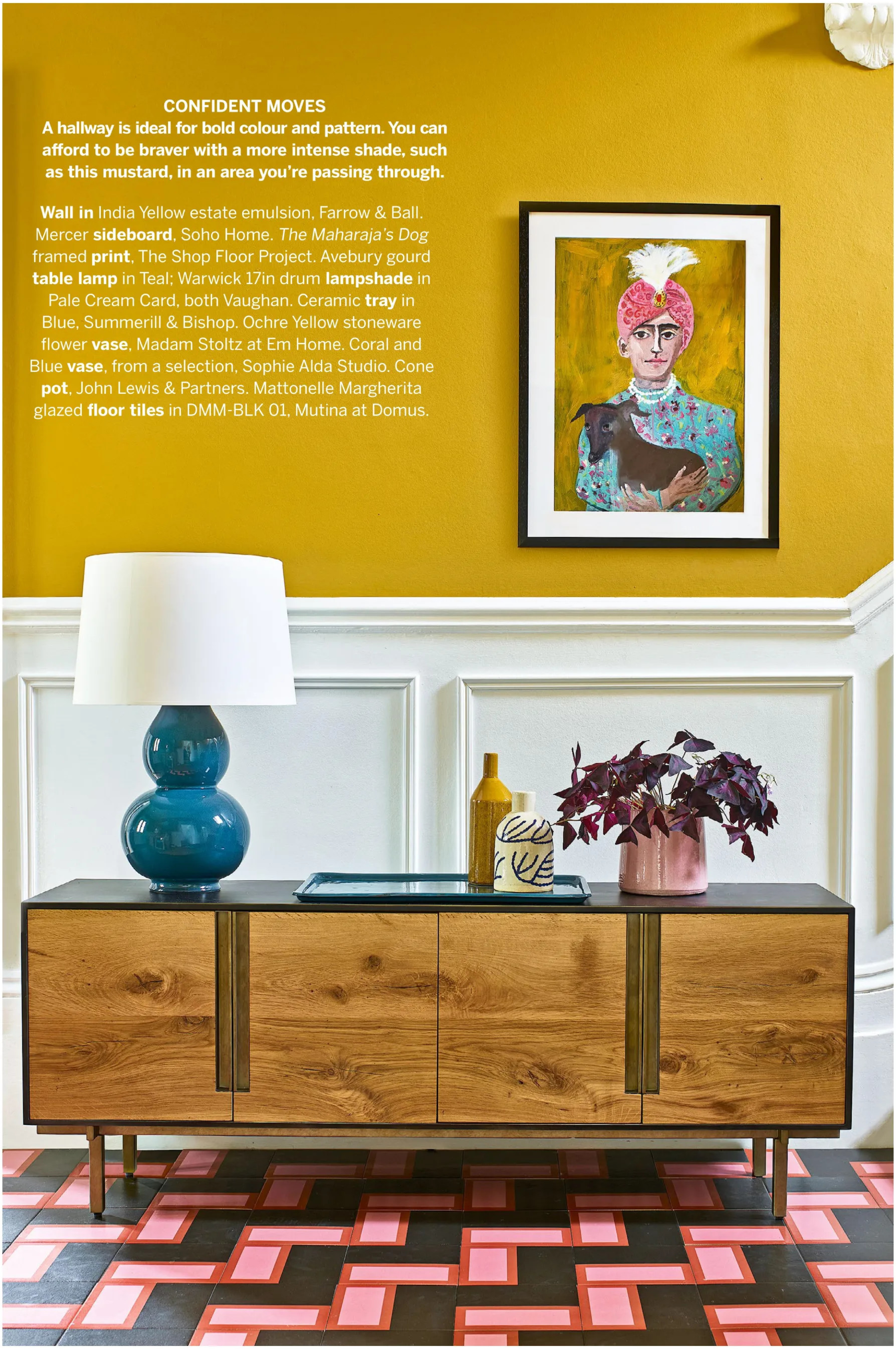
Wall in Etruria 326 absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene. *Le Point de Rencontre au Fin d'automne* by Caroline Denervaud, **oil on canvas**, Otomys Contemporary. Silhouette **bench** in Portside Red, Howe London. Patchwork **cushion cover**, Toast. Large Papavera **vase**, Oka. Blue kilim KL817 **rug**, Larusi.



SERENE SCHEME

Muted pink walls are a perfect backdrop for a rich palette – introduce crisp whites for breathing space.

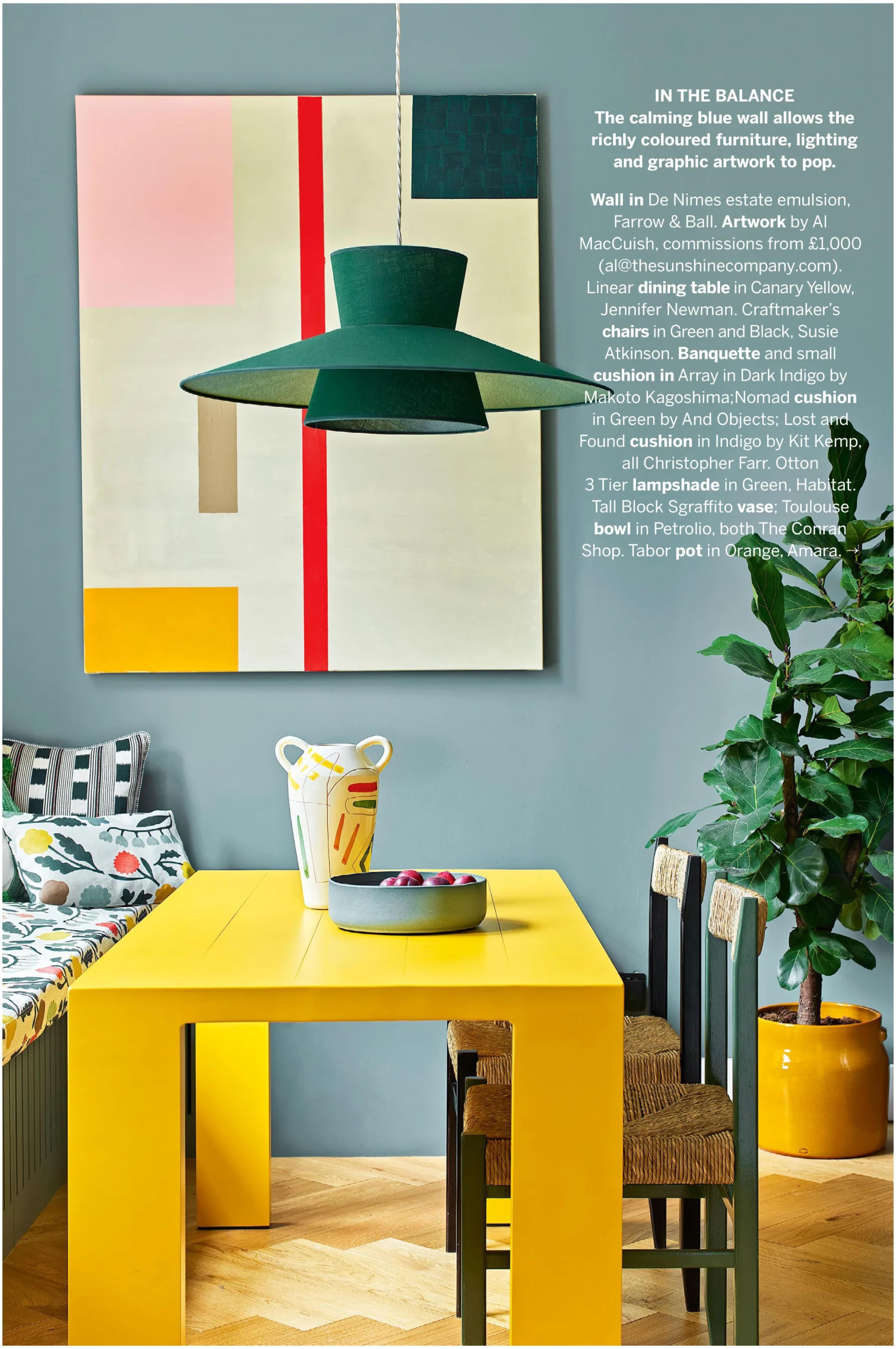
Walls in Sulking Room Pink estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball. Soufflot **armchair**, Ligne Roset Westend. Cylinder **side table**, Susie Atkinson. **Jug**, Pentreath & Hall. Turner Pocock Classic **sofa**, Lorfords Contemporary; **covered in** Conway Ecru, Designers Guild. Pink Flag **cushion**, Fermoie. **Cushion in** Zig Zag, Virginia White Collection. Picasso **cushion**, The Conran Shop. Stripe **cushion**, Heal's. Ikat **cushion**, Pentreath & Hall. Mag **side table**; **coffee table**, both The Conran Shop. **Carafe**; **tumblers**, all Hadeda. Bibendum **chair in** Adamo & Eva Cayenne, Aram Store. **Collage**, Caroline Popham. **Mirror**, Soane. Trafalgar **lamp**; **shade**, both Pooky. Framis **rug**, Mary Katrantzou for The Rug Company. →



CONFIDENT MOVES

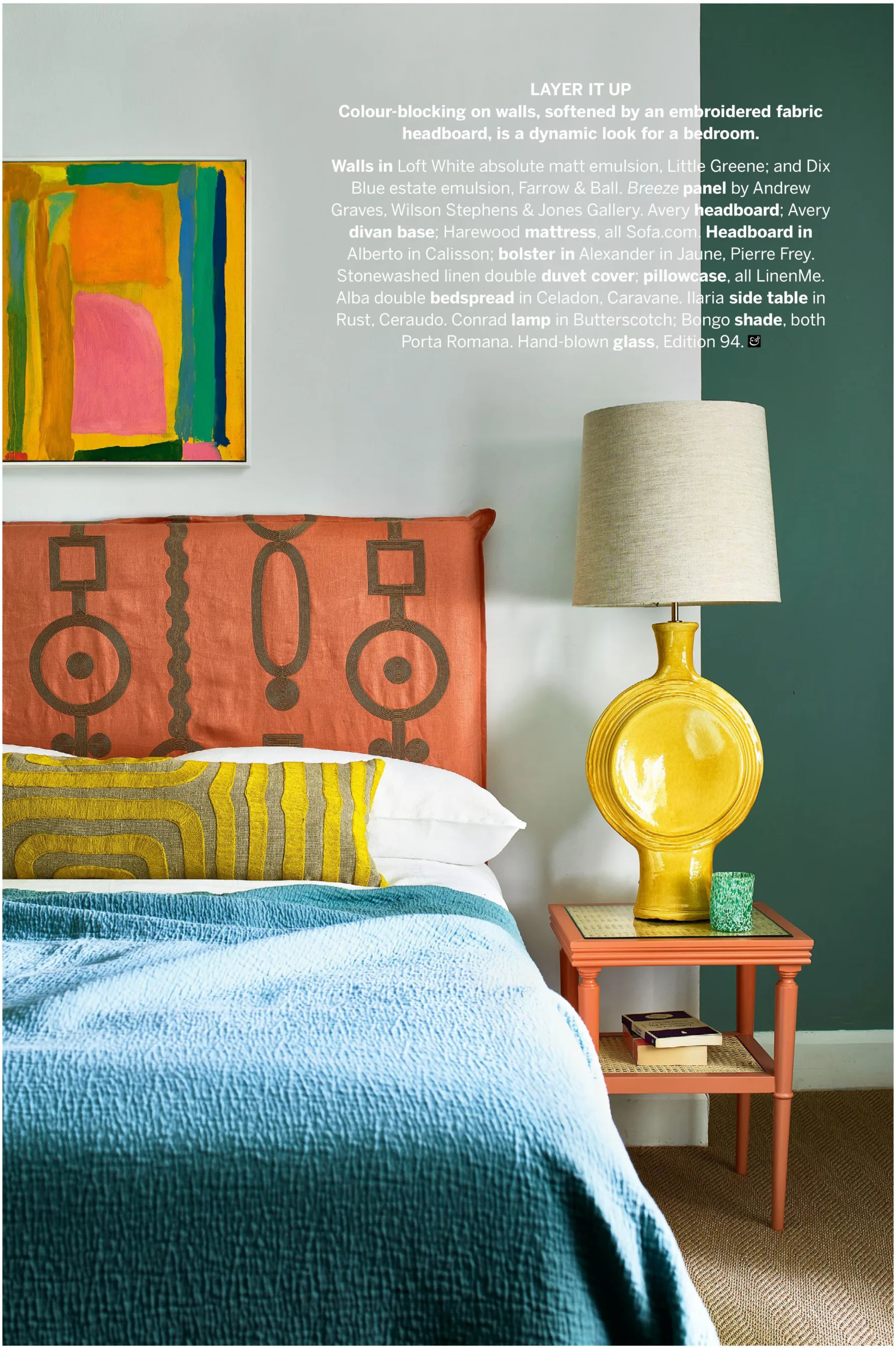
A hallway is ideal for bold colour and pattern. You can afford to be braver with a more intense shade, such as this mustard, in an area you're passing through.

Wall in India Yellow estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball. Mercer **sideboard**, Soho Home. *The Maharaja's Dog* framed **print**, The Shop Floor Project. Avebury gourd **table lamp** in Teal; Warwick 17in drum **lampshade** in Pale Cream Card, both Vaughan. Ceramic **tray** in Blue, Summerill & Bishop. Ochre Yellow stoneware flower **vase**, Madam Stoltz at Em Home. Coral and Blue **vase**, from a selection, Sophie Alda Studio. Cone **pot**, John Lewis & Partners. Mattonelle Margherita glazed **floor tiles** in DMM-BLK 01, Mutina at Domus.



IN THE BALANCE
The calming blue wall allows the richly coloured furniture, lighting and graphic artwork to pop.

Wall in De Nimes estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball. **Artwork** by Al MacCuish, commissions from £1,000 (al@thesunshinecompany.com). Linear **dining table** in Canary Yellow, Jennifer Newman. Craftmaker's **chairs** in Green and Black, Susie Atkinson. **Banquette** and small **cushion in** Array in Dark Indigo by Makoto Kagoshima;Nomad **cushion** in Green by And Objects; Lost and Found **cushion** in Indigo by Kit Kemp, all Christopher Farr. Otton 3 Tier **lampshade** in Green, Habitat. Tall Block Sgraffito **vase**; Toulouse **bowl** in Petrolio, both The Conran Shop. Tabor **pot** in Orange, Amara. →



LAYER IT UP

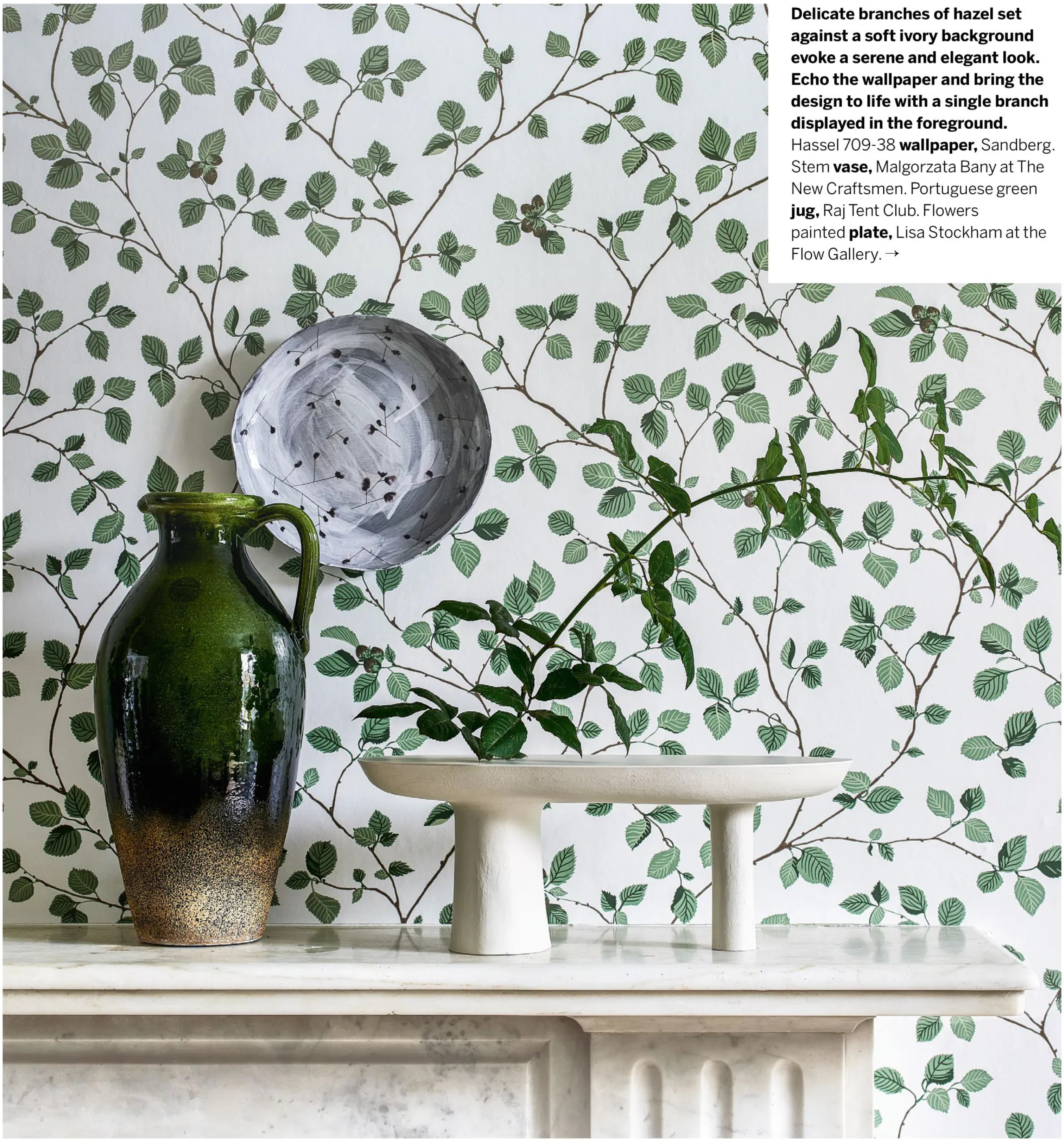
Colour-blocking on walls, softened by an embroidered fabric headboard, is a dynamic look for a bedroom.

Walls in Loft White absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene; and Dix Blue estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball. *Breeze* **panel** by Andrew Graves, Wilson Stephens & Jones Gallery. Avery **headboard**; Avery **divan base**; Harewood **mattress**, all Sofa.com. **Headboard in** Alberto in Calisson; **bolster in** Alexander in Jaune, Pierre Frey. Stonewashed linen double **duvet cover**; **pillowcase**, all LinenMe. Alba double **bedspread** in Celadon, Caravane. Ilaria **side table** in Rust, Ceraudo. Conrad **lamp** in Butterscotch; Bongo **shade**, both Porta Romana. Hand-blown **glass**, Edition 94. &

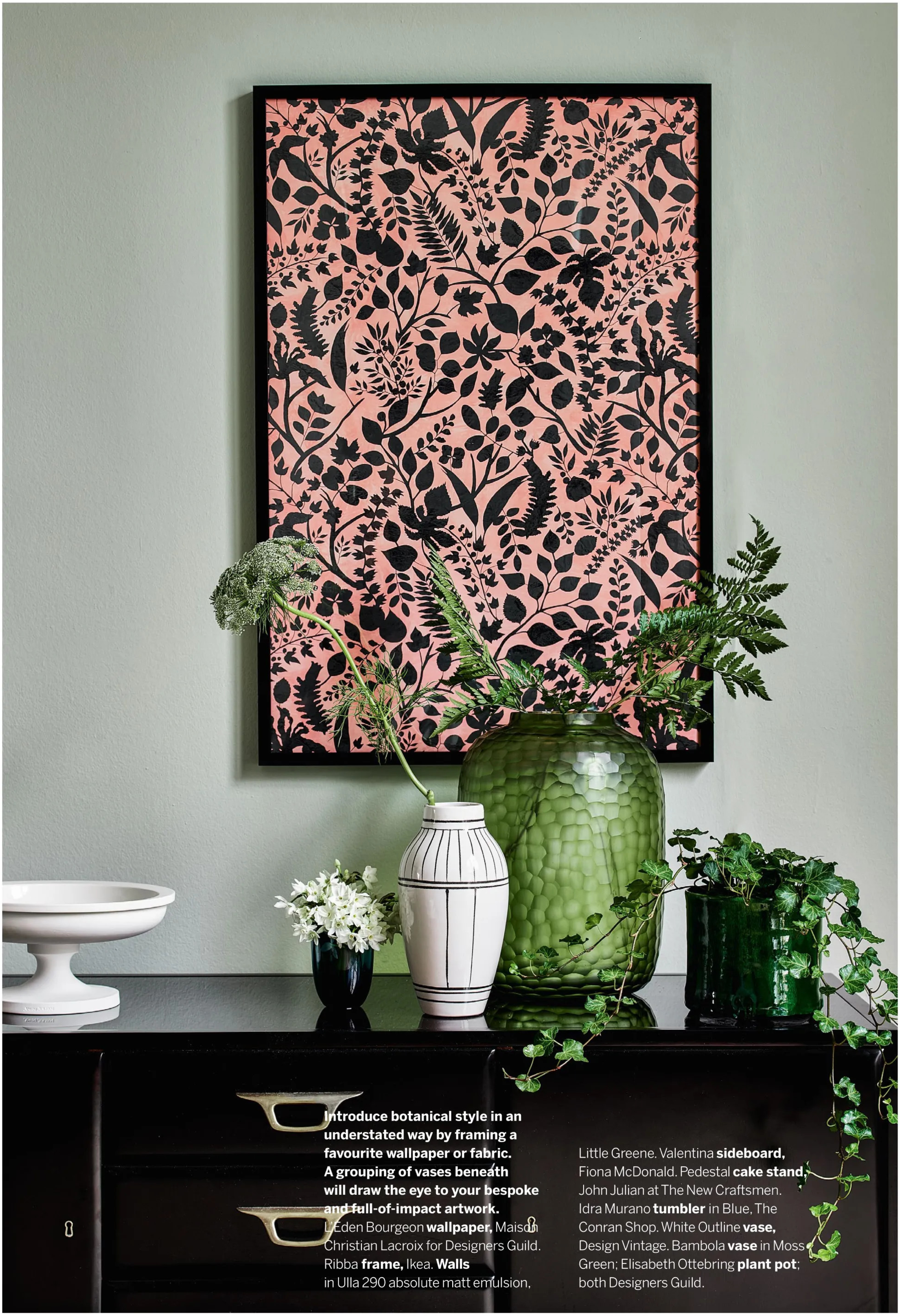
The new botanicals

From arboretum-inspired motifs to hothouse plant life, foliage takes on a fresh look this season. It's time to welcome all things green and pleasant into the home

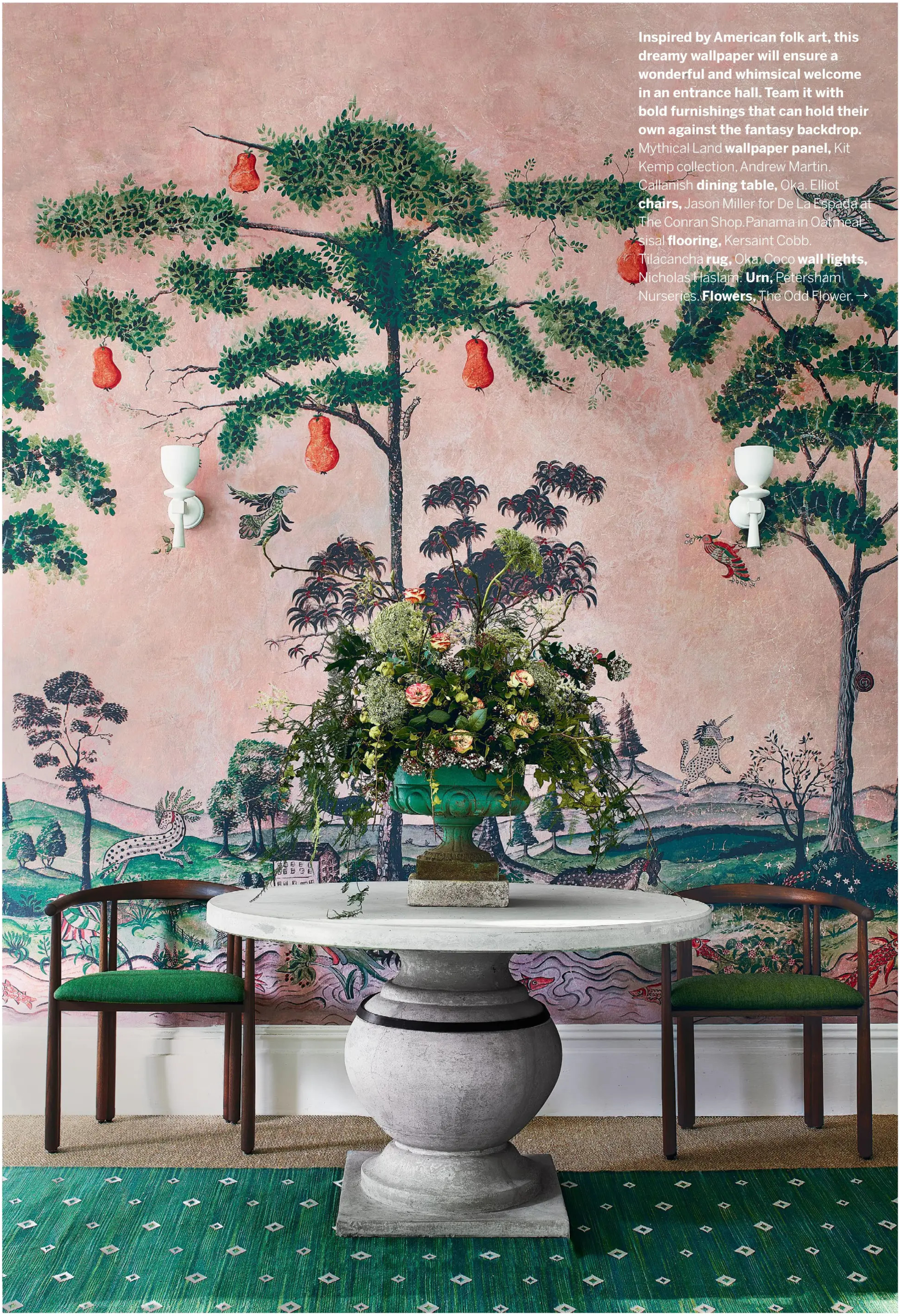
STYLING SALLY DENNING **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY WREFORD



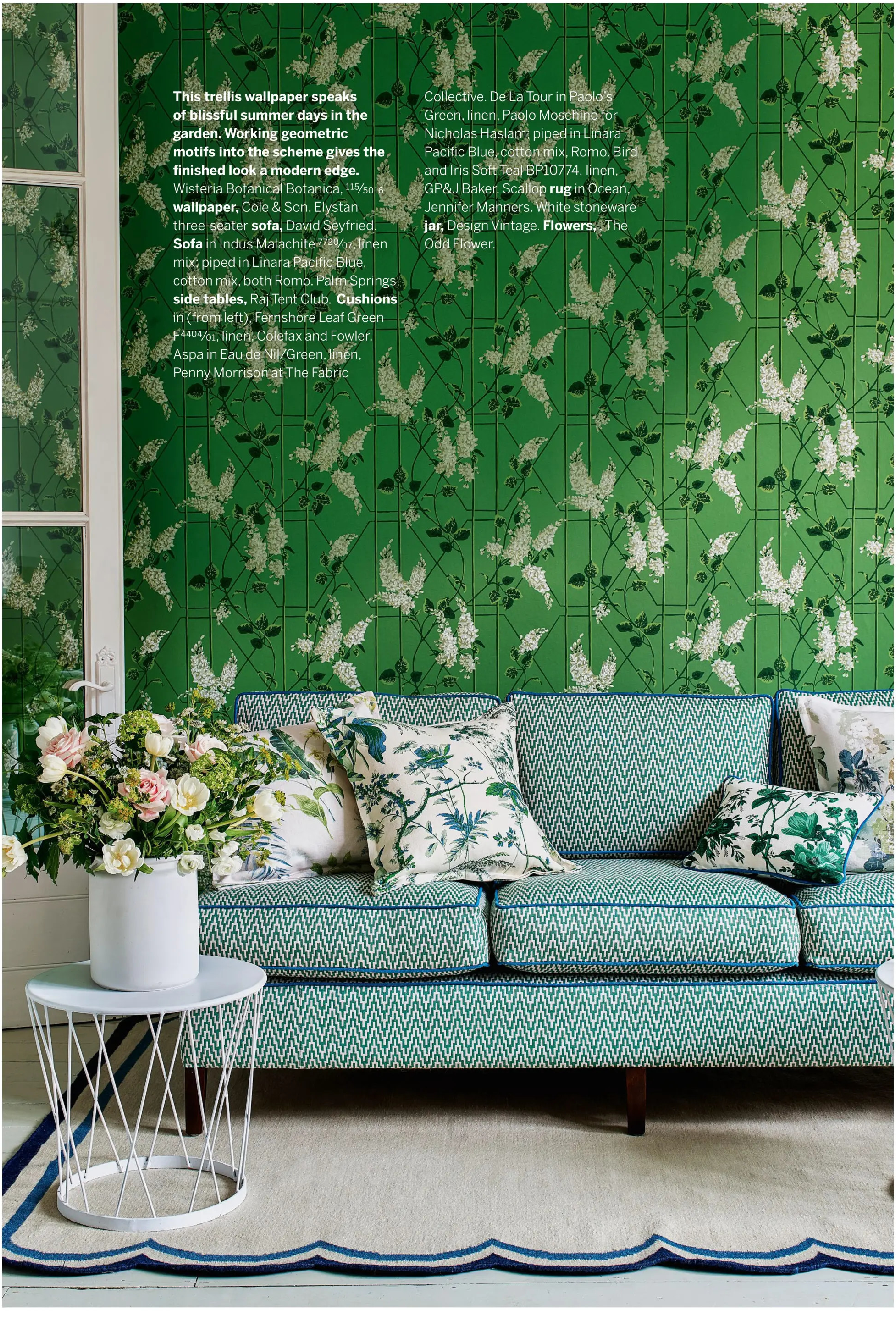
Delicate branches of hazel set against a soft ivory background evoke a serene and elegant look. Echo the wallpaper and bring the design to life with a single branch displayed in the foreground. Hassel 709-38 **wallpaper,** Sandberg. Stem **vase,** Malgorzata Bany at The New Craftsmen. Portuguese green **jug,** Raj Tent Club. Flowers painted **plate,** Lisa Stockham at the Flow Gallery. →



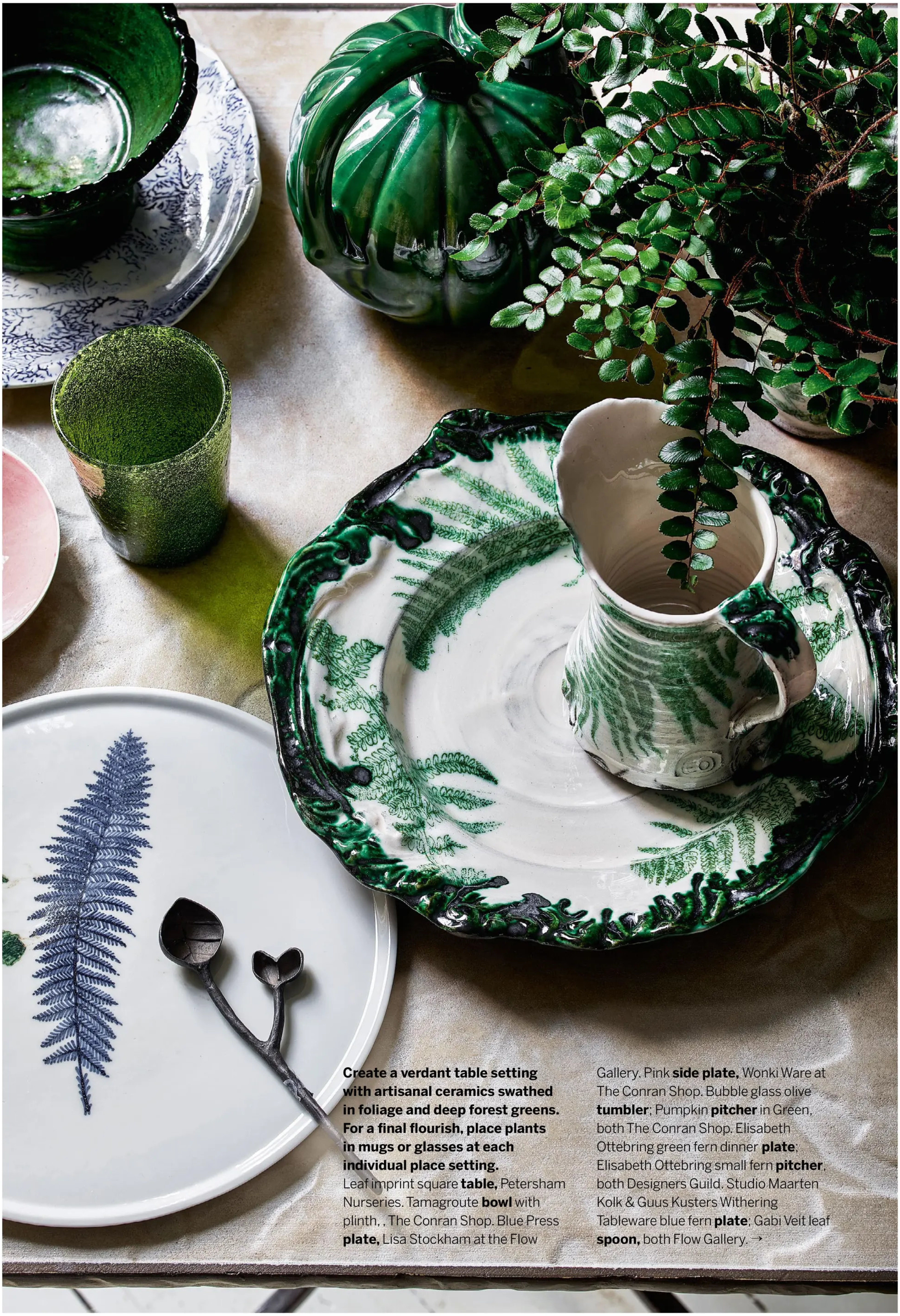
Introduce botanical style in an understated way by framing a favourite wallpaper or fabric. A grouping of vases beneath will draw the eye to your bespoke and full-of-impact artwork. L'Eden Bourgeon **wallpaper,** Maison Christian Lacroix for Designers Guild. Ribba **frame,** Ikea. **Walls** in Ulla 290 absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene. Valentina **sideboard,** Fiona McDonald. Pedestal **cake stand,** John Julian at The New Craftsmen. Idra Murano **tumbler** in Blue, The Conran Shop. White Outline **vase,** Design Vintage. Bambola **vase** in Moss Green; Elisabeth Ottebring **plant pot**; both Designers Guild.



Inspired by American folk art, this dreamy wallpaper will ensure a wonderful and whimsical welcome in an entrance hall. Team it with bold furnishings that can hold their own against the fantasy backdrop. Mythical Land **wallpaper panel,** Kit Kemp collection, Andrew Martin. Callanish **dining table,** Oka. Elliot **chairs,** Jason Miller for De La Espada at The Conran Shop.Panama in Oatmeal sisal **flooring,** Kersaint Cobb. Tilacancha **rug,** Oka. Coco **wall lights,** Nicholas Haslam. **Urn,** Petersham Nurseries. **Flowers,** The Odd Flower. →

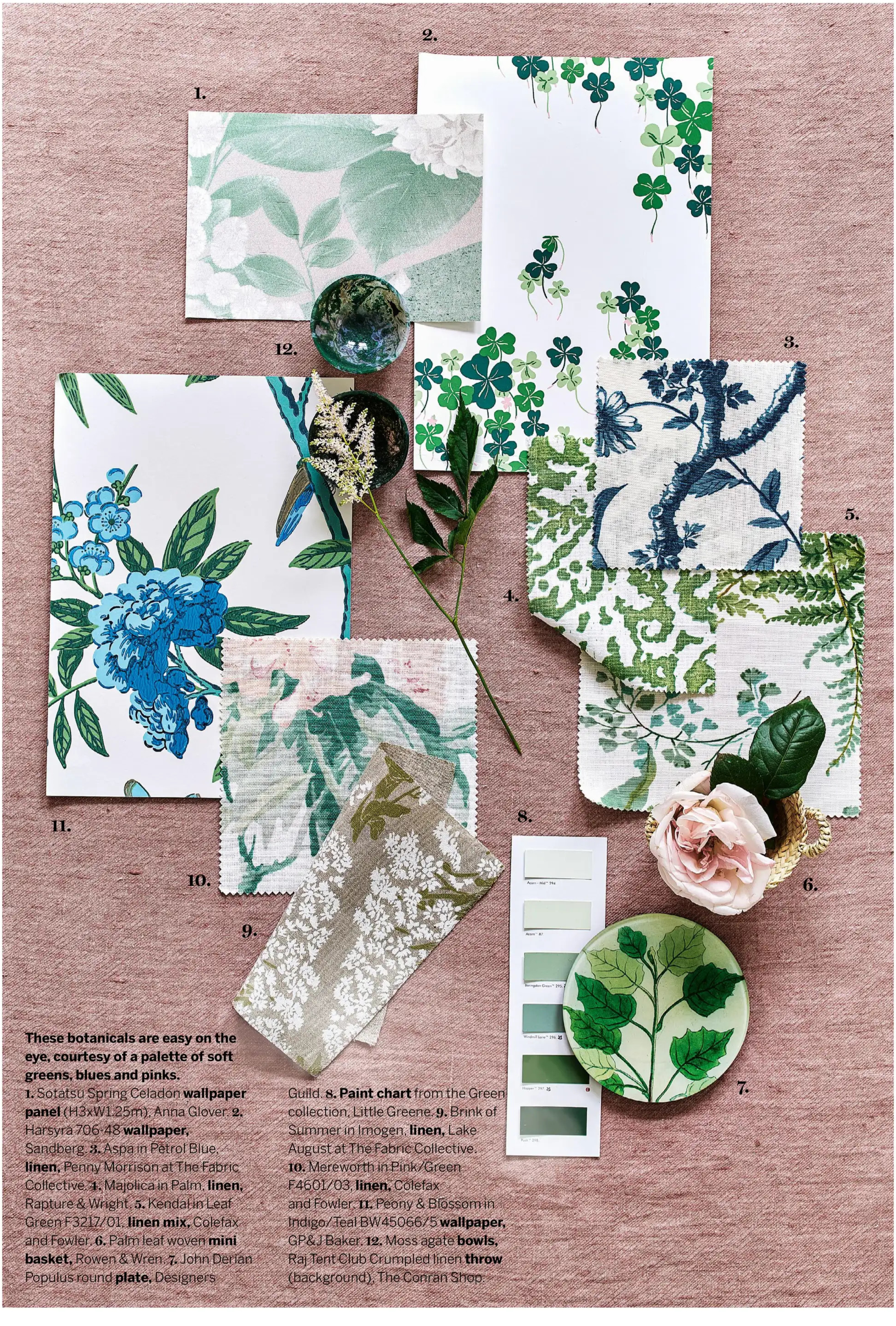


This trellis wallpaper speaks of blissful summer days in the garden. Working geometric motifs into the scheme gives the finished look a modern edge. Wisteria Botanical Botanica, 115/5016 **wallpaper,** Cole & Son. Elystan three-seater **sofa,** David Seyfried. **Sofa** in Indus Malachite 7720/07, linen mix; piped in Linara Pacific Blue, cotton mix, both Romo. Palm Springs **side tables,** Raj Tent Club. **Cushions** in (from left), Fernshore Leaf Green F4404/01, linen, Colefax and Fowler. Aspa in Eau de Nil/Green, linen, Penny Morrison at The Fabric Collective. De La Tour in Paolo's Green, linen, Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam; piped in Linara Pacific Blue, cotton mix, Romo. Bird and Iris Soft Teal BP10774, linen, GP&J Baker. Scallop **rug** in Ocean, Jennifer Manners. White stoneware **jar,** Design Vintage. **Flowers,** The Odd Flower.

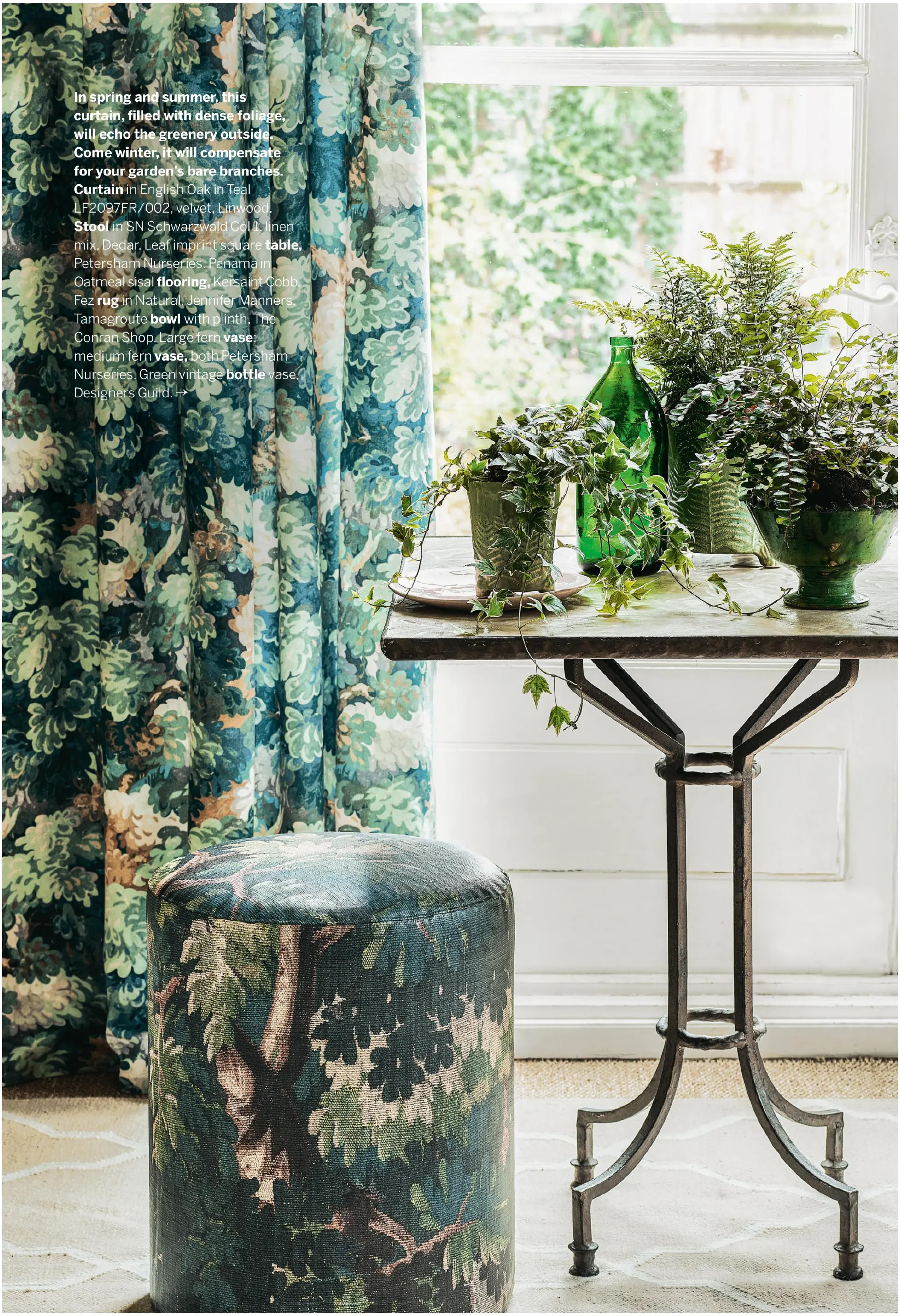


Create a verdant table setting with artisanal ceramics swathed in foliage and deep forest greens. For a final flourish, place plants in mugs or glasses at each individual place setting.

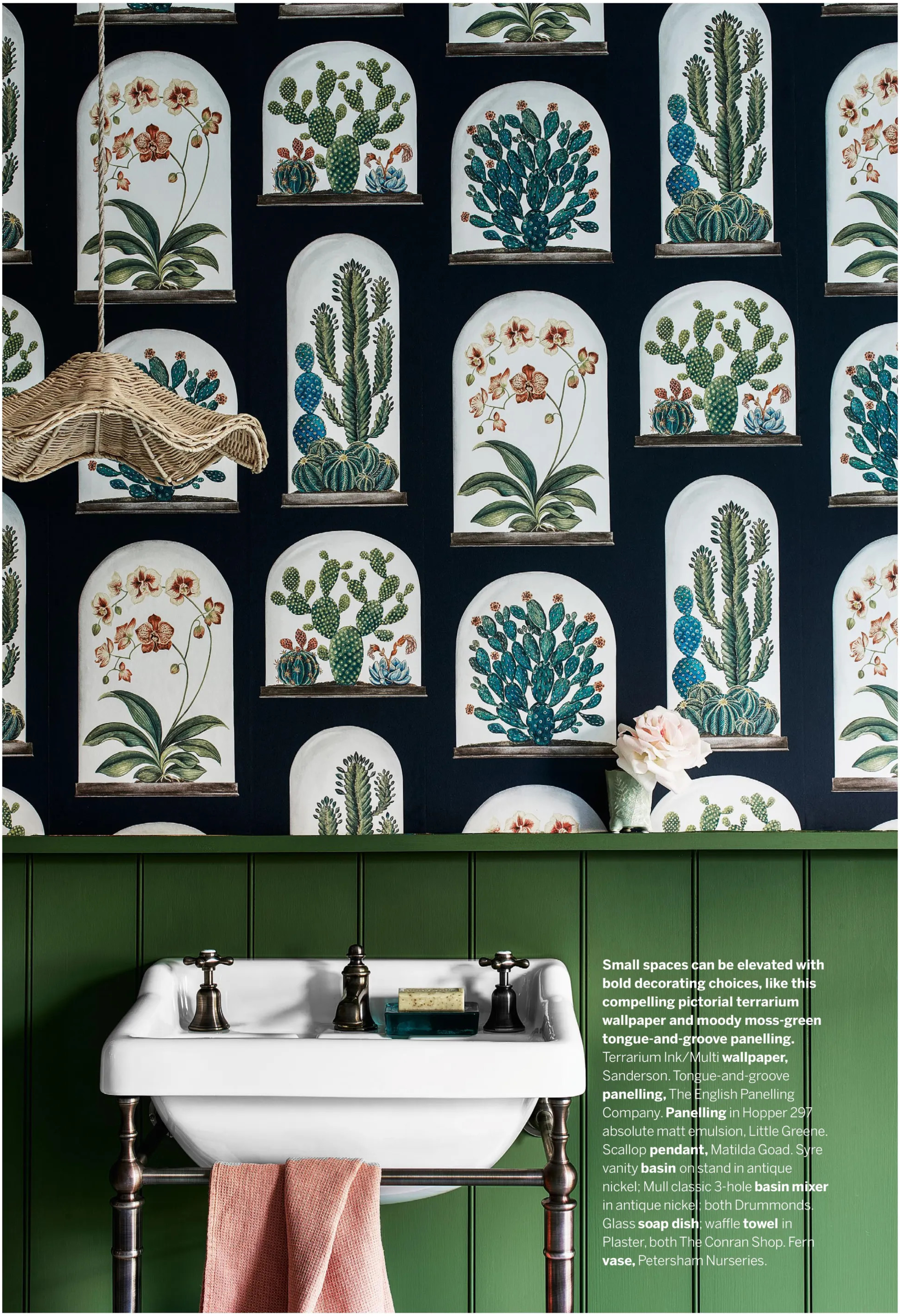
Leaf imprint square **table,** Petersham Nurseries. Tamagroute **bowl** with plinth, , The Conran Shop. Blue Press **plate,** Lisa Stockham at the Flow Gallery. Pink **side plate,** Wonki Ware at The Conran Shop. Bubble glass olive **tumbler**; Pumpkin **pitcher** in Green, both The Conran Shop. Elisabeth Ottebring green fern dinner **plate**; Elisabeth Ottebring small fern **pitcher**, both Designers Guild. Studio Maarten Kolk & Guus Kusters Withering Tableware blue fern **plate**; Gabi Veit leaf **spoon,** both Flow Gallery. →



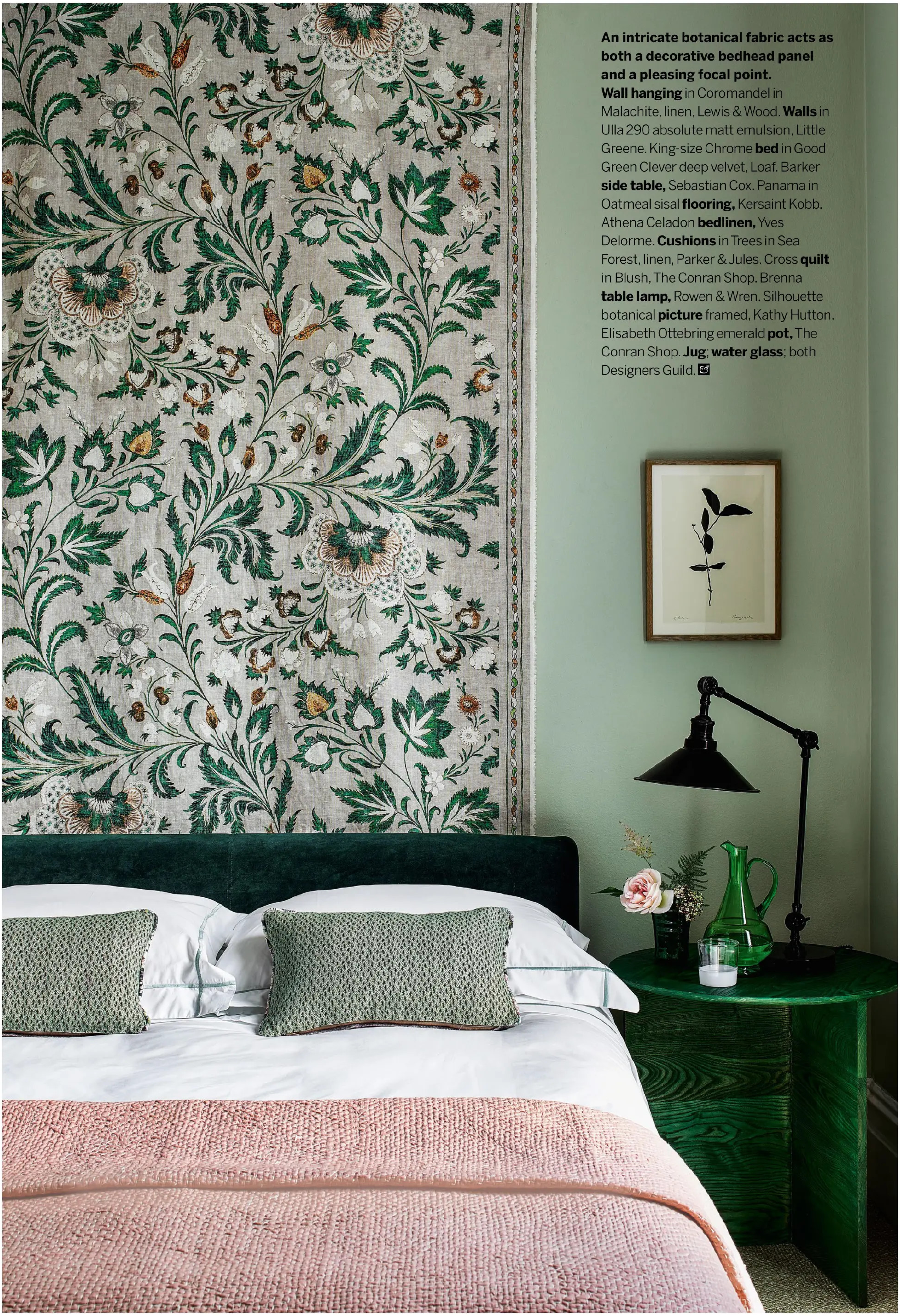
These botanicals are easy on the eye, courtesy of a palette of soft greens, blues and pinks.
1. Sotatsu Spring Celadon **wallpaper panel** (H3xW1.25m), Anna Glover. **2.** Harsyra 706-48 **wallpaper,** Sandberg. **3.** Aspa in Petrol Blue, **linen,** Penny Morrison at The Fabric Collective. **4.** Majolica in Palm, **linen,** Rapture & Wright. **5.** Kendal in Leaf Green F3217/01, **linen mix,** Colefax and Fowler. **6.** Palm leaf woven **mini basket,** Rowen & Wren. **7.** John Derian Populus round **plate,** Designers Guild. **8. Paint chart** from the Green collection, Little Greene. **9.** Brink of Summer in Imogen, **linen,** Lake August at The Fabric Collective. **10.** Mereworth in Pink/Green F4601/03, **linen,** Colefax and Fowler. **11.** Peony & Blossom in Indigo/Teal BW45066/5 **wallpaper,** GP&J Baker. **12.** Moss agate **bowls,** Raj Tent Club Crumpled linen **throw** (background), The Conran Shop.



In spring and summer, this curtain, filled with dense foliage, will echo the greenery outside. Come winter, it will compensate for your garden's bare branches. **Curtain** in English Oak in Teal LF2097FR/002, velvet, Linwood. **Stool** in SN Schwarzwald Col 1, linen mix, Dedar. Leaf imprint square **table,** Petersham Nurseries. Panama in Oatmeal sisal **flooring,** Kersaint Cobb. Fez **rug** in Natural, Jennifer Manners. Tamagroute **bowl** with plinth, The Conran Shop. Large fern **vase**; medium fern **vase,** both Petersham Nurseries. Green vintage **bottle** vase, Designers Guild. →



Small spaces can be elevated with bold decorating choices, like this compelling pictorial terrarium wallpaper and moody moss-green tongue-and-groove panelling. Terrarium Ink/Multi **wallpaper,** Sanderson. Tongue-and-groove **panelling,** The English Panelling Company. **Panelling** in Hopper 297 absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene. Scallop **pendant,** Matilda Goad. Syre vanity **basin** on stand in antique nickel; Mull classic 3-hole **basin mixer** in antique nickel; both Drummonds. Glass **soap dish**; waffle **towel** in Plaster, both The Conran Shop. Fern **vase,** Petersham Nurseries.



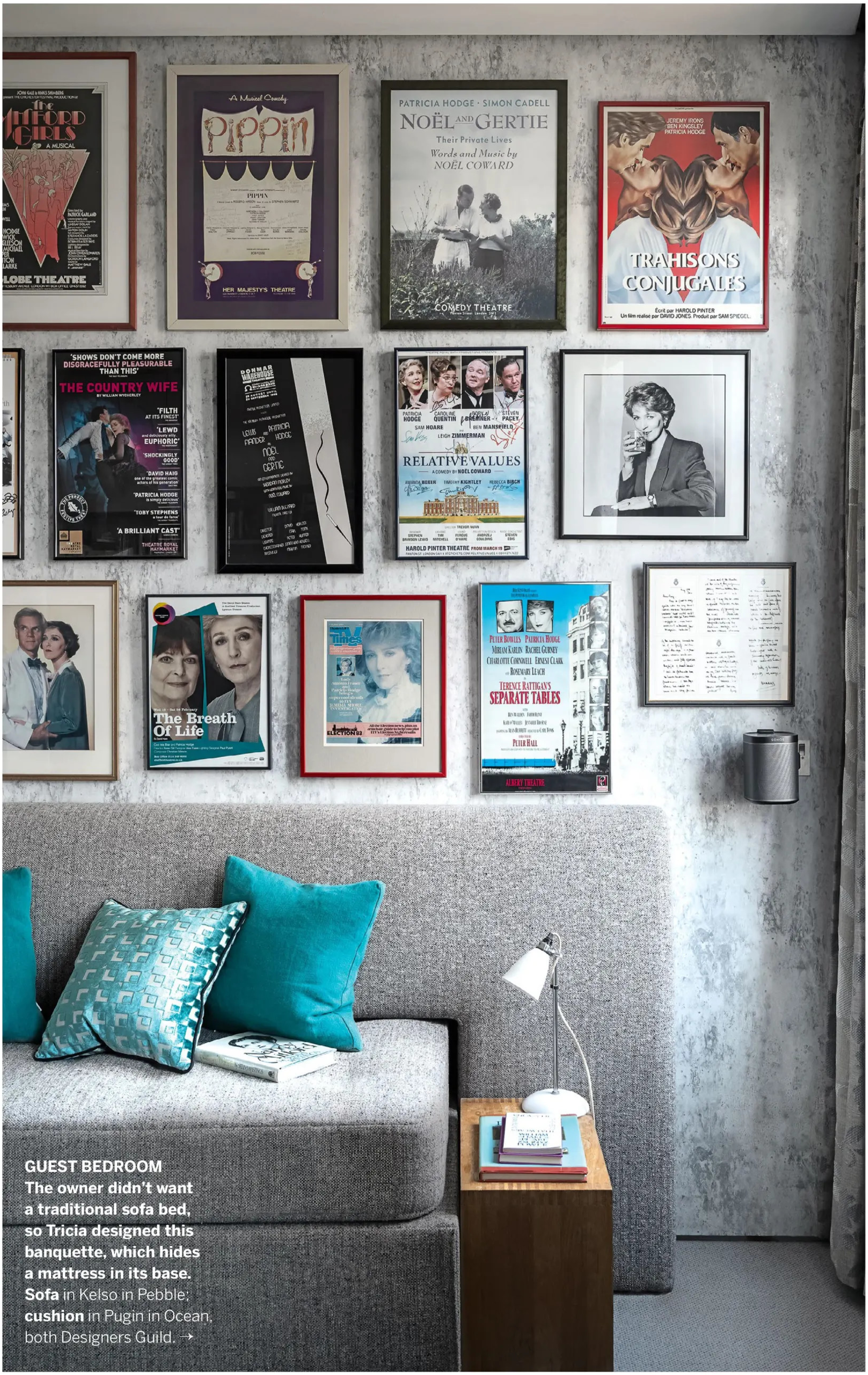
An intricate botanical fabric acts as both a decorative bedhead panel and a pleasing focal point.
Wall hanging in Coromandel in Malachite, linen, Lewis & Wood. **Walls** in Ulla 290 absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene. King-size Chrome **bed** in Good Green Clever deep velvet, Loaf. Barker **side table,** Sebastian Cox. Panama in Oatmeal sisal **flooring,** Kersaint Kobb. Athena Celadon **bedlinen,** Yves Delorme. **Cushions** in Trees in Sea Forest, linen, Parker & Jules. Cross **quilt** in Blush, The Conran Shop. Brenna **table lamp,** Rowen & Wren. Silhouette botanical **picture** framed, Kathy Hutton. Elisabeth Ottebring emerald **pot,** The Conran Shop. **Jug**; **water glass**; both Designers Guild.

Oasis of calm

This riverside apartment makes the most of its leafy surroundings thanks to the design flair of Tricia Guild

WORDS PIP McCORMAC **PHOTOGRAPHY** PAUL RAESIDE **STYLING** MARY WEAVER

LIVING AREA
A pale grey palette and touches of greenery create a peaceful feel. **Sofa** from Montis; covered in Ashbee **fabric**; **curtains** in Saraille in Celadon; **walls** in Polished Cement No 21, all Designers Guild.


PIPPIN
NOËL AND GERTIE
TRAHISONS CONJUGALES
THE COUNTRY WIFE
RELATIVE VALUES
The Breath Of Life
SEPARATE TABLES

GUEST BEDROOM
The owner didn't want a traditional sofa bed, so Tricia designed this banquette, which hides a mattress in its base. **Sofa** in Kelso in Pebble; **cushion** in Pugin in Ocean, both Designers Guild. →

Once a year the Oxford and Cambridge boat race zips past the windows of this large three-bedroom apartment, but for the rest of the time it's a quiet, dreamy space, surrounded by nature and river views. On the banks of the Thames in Barnes, southwest London, a short walk from Hammersmith Bridge, the home is on the first floor of what was once a furniture warehouse built around the time of the First World War and used as storage by Harrods. It was converted into flats in 2000 and, more recently, redecorated and redesigned in 2017 by Tricia Guild of the lifestyle brand Designers Guild for an old friend of hers to live in. 'We wanted to make a home that felt very positive,' says Tricia. 'Somewhere open and contemporary but with a warm atmosphere.'

It was, says the owner, a 'weird layout'. The kitchen was in the middle of the open-plan apartment, the walls had been covered with plasterboard, and the windows, built for an industrial setting, were higher than residential panes, meaning the view was obscured as soon as you sat down. 'The first thing we did was raise the floor,' says Tricia, 'which allowed the landscape to flood into the room.' The kitchen was moved to the far side of the apartment and the walls were stripped back to bare bricks. 'I wanted to take it back to the great beauty of its origins,' says the owner of their decision to expose the concrete beams and return the window frames to the green they once were. Tricia's job was then to introduce delicate colours, blowsy patterns and a sense of the outdoors. 'I was so taken by the light in the summer, this explosion of green from the outside, and felt it was like living in a park,' adds the owner. 'I wanted to keep that sense of prettiness and use every green in the book.'

Tricia's starting point was the river. 'I chose colours inspired by the lovely shades of the water, and the wonderful eau de Nil it can be when it's at its best,' she says. 'I knew the space needed to be sociable, and the large dining table and piano the owner already had were signs of the great conviviality they were going to imbue their home with, so then I had to bring light, joy and texture to the rest of the home.' She began with the Ashbee fabric from Designers Guild, used to cover the vast sofa in the middle of the living space, a weave of greens and blues with a hint of blush rose that became the palette for the whole home. 'Once you get one thing right like that fabric, you have a base to use when decorating the rest of the project,' says Tricia. Green is the overriding colour, seen on the curtains, furniture and walls, and Tricia says she chose the patterns here because 'they're all quite subtle. I love print, of course, but it's a balancing act if you want them to stimulate rather than overpower.'

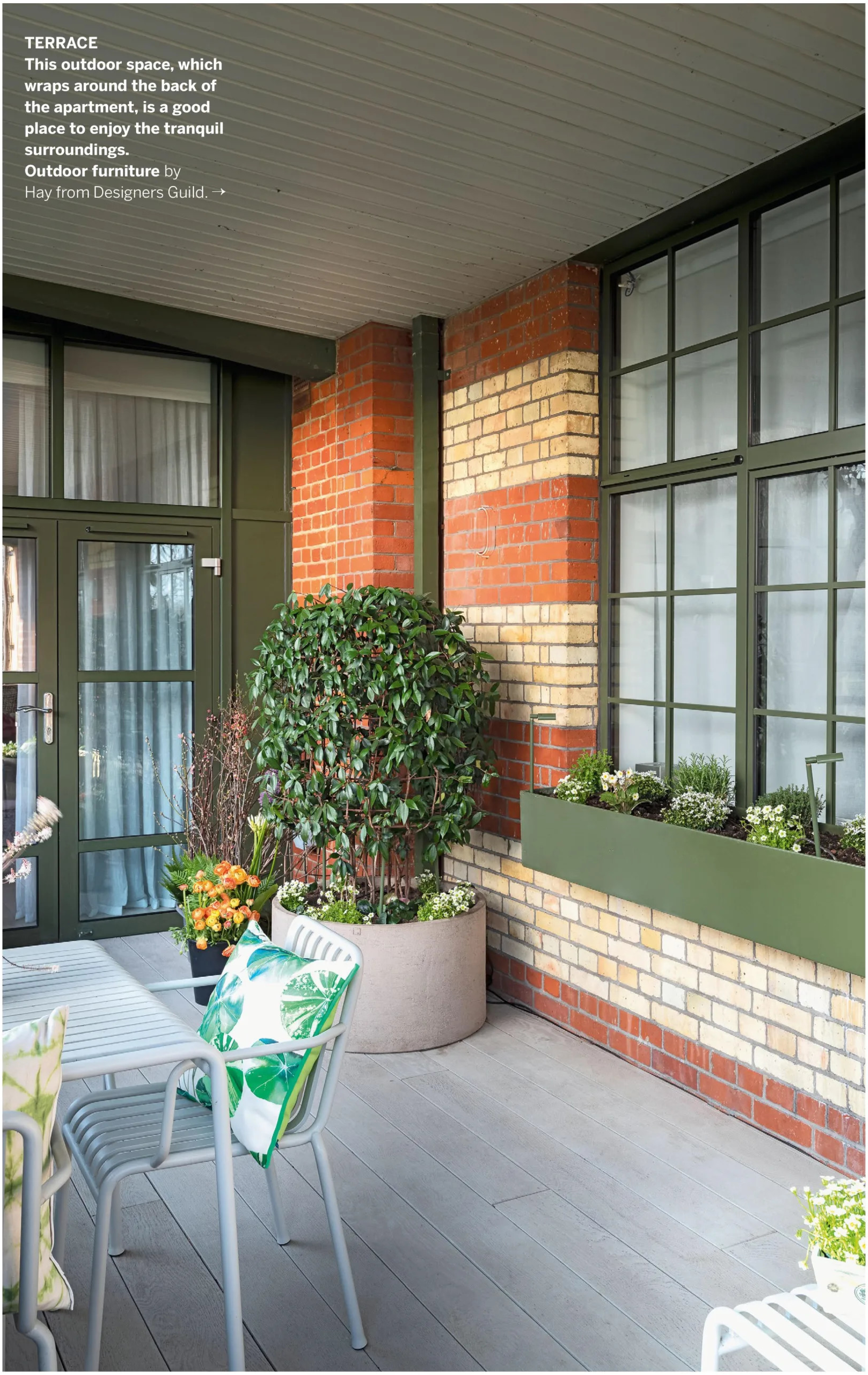
Consisting mostly of one open-plan space, Tricia created separate zones, including a library area at one end with an entire wall of books and a large oak table, which becomes a place to read at when not being used for entertaining. The sofa in the centre is the room's focal point for relaxing and looking at the river, then a Tulip table by Eero Saarinen with a marble top leads into a modern kitchen. There's a soothing flow of airiness and space, enhanced by the blush pinks in the master bedroom and the unobtrusive lighting, chosen by specialist Sally Storey.

It's hard to believe you're in the middle of the capital. 'Barnes is a hybrid of London and the country with its own green, common and village pond,' says the owner. 'I grew up in the countryside and wanted something that reminded me of my childhood.' One look at the verdant trees outside, the reassuring greens inside and the comforting floral patterns and anyone would feel right at home.

■ Interior design by Designers Guild Interior Design Dept., 02078 937400, designersguild.com

LIBRARY AREA
Shelves made from an industrial mix of wood and metal are a nod to the building's heritage. Armchair, Aram. **Dining chairs** covered in Kelso in Aqua (front) and Murrine in Celadon (back), both Designers Guild. →

KITCHEN
The cupboards were all kept low so as not to obstruct the light that comes in through the windows and the door onto the terrace.
Units and **worktop**, Daulby and Tickle. **Wall** in The Vert No 108, Designers Guild.



TERRACE
This outdoor space, which wraps around the back of the apartment, is a good place to enjoy the tranquil surroundings.
Outdoor furniture by Hay from Designers Guild. →

MASTER BEDROOM
Using lighter colours and keeping the room spacious helped to maximise the natural light that flows in via the windows and sidedoor. →

DARK STAR
A BIOGRAPHY OF VIVIEN LEIGH
Ma'am Darling
Craig Brown

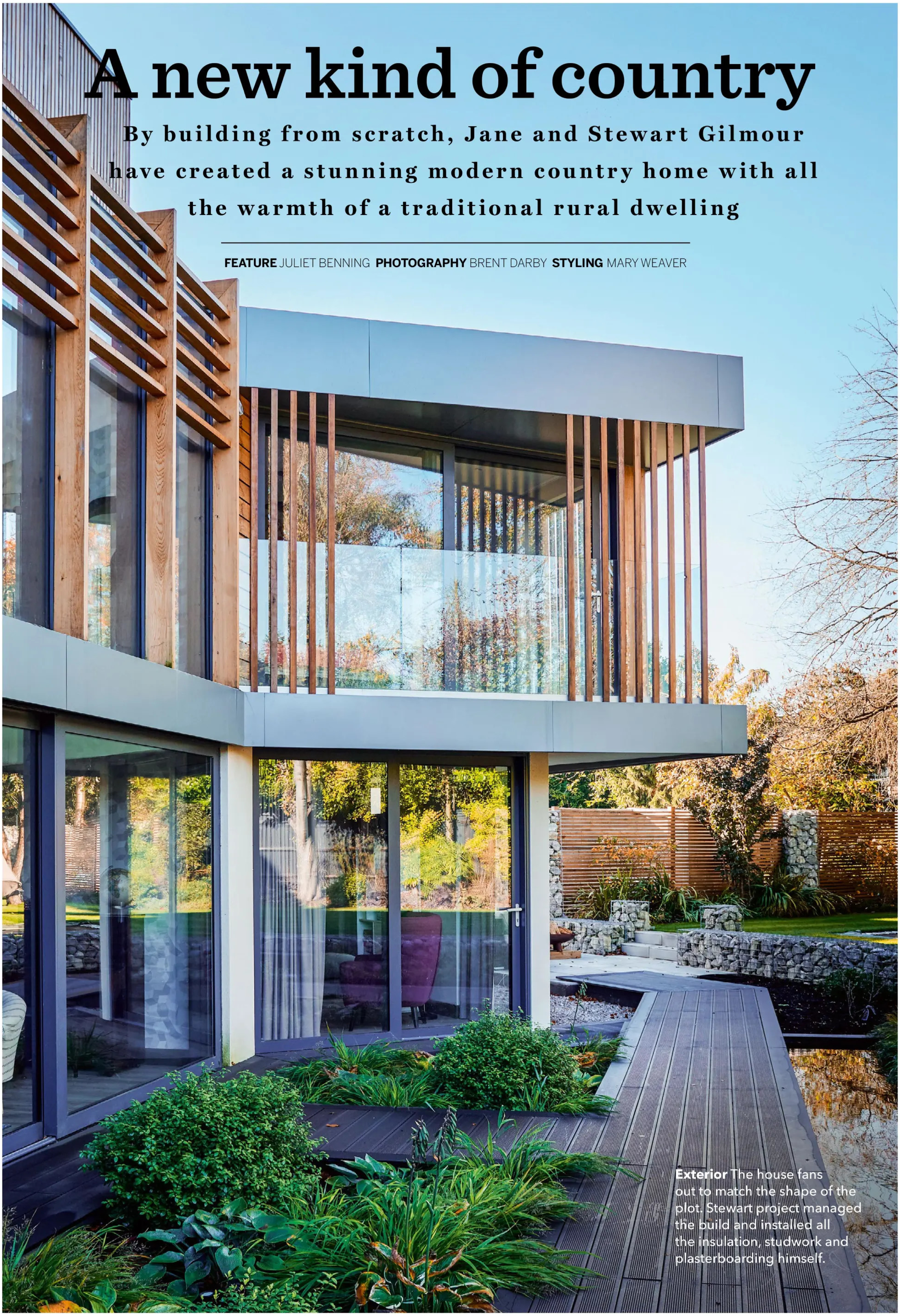
MASTER BEDROOM
The green-meets-blush-pink colour theme was chosen for its soothing, sleep-inducing qualities. Cielo in Jade **wallpaper**; **curtains** in Floreale Grande in Zinc, both Designers Guild. **Table lamp**, William Yeoward.

BATHROOM
Despite having no windows, this space feels open and airy thanks to the white tiles and rose mural. **Mural**, Bisazza. **Bath** and **tap**, Dornbracht.

A new kind of country

By building from scratch, Jane and Stewart Gilmour have created a stunning modern country home with all the warmth of a traditional rural dwelling

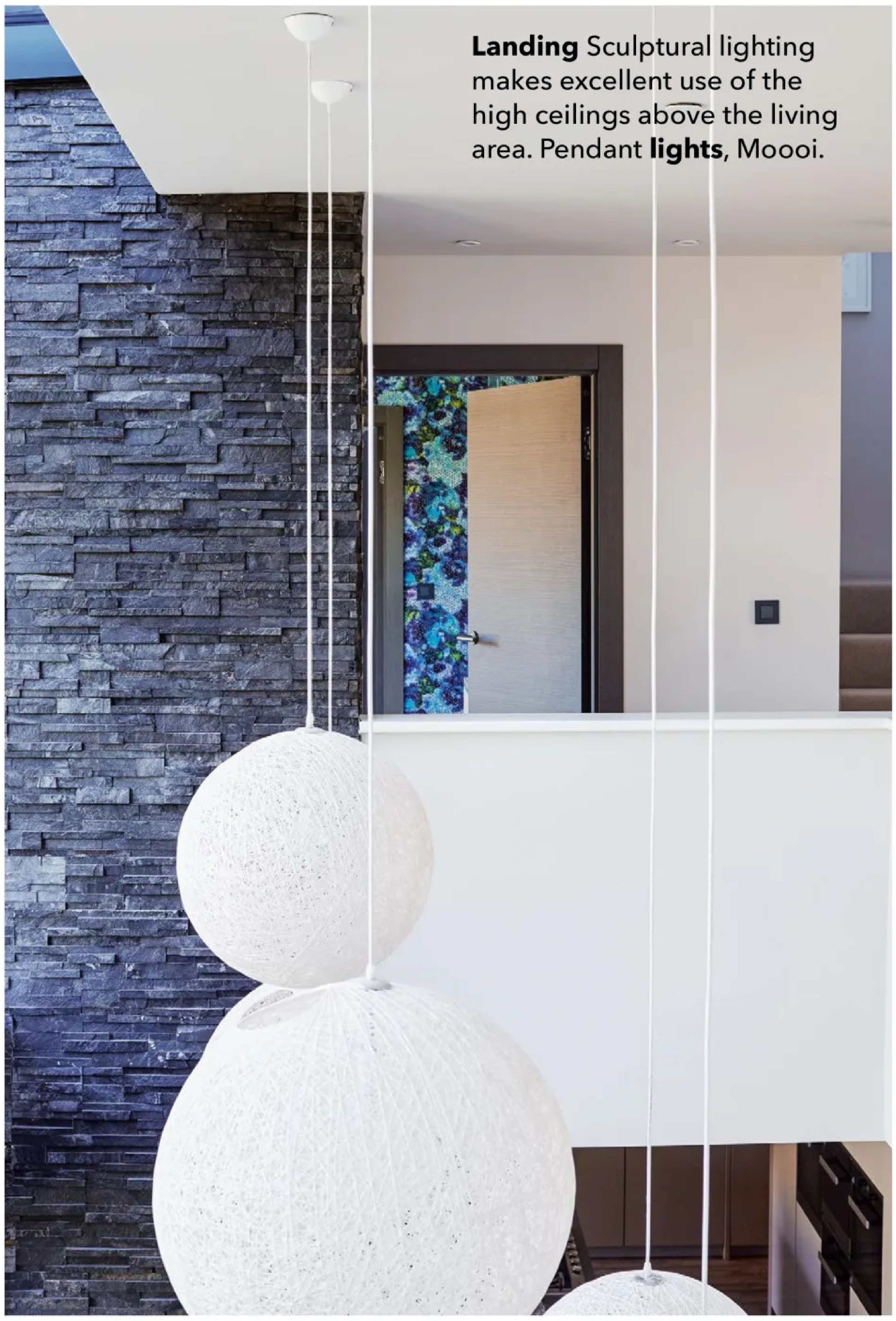
FEATURE JULIET BENNING **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRENT DARBY **STYLING** MARY WEAVER



Exterior The house fans out to match the shape of the plot. Stewart project managed the build and installed all the insulation, studwork and plasterboarding himself.

Living room The chimney in the centre of the house rises up through the double-height, open-plan space and makes for an impressive focal point. Wooden **armchair**, Swoon. Floral **cushion**, Harlequin. →

Living room Arranging all the seating to face the window keeps the focus on the garden, while an eclectic combination of prints add interest.
Small **sofa**, Swoon. Table **lamp**, French Connection Home. Grey **coffee table**, Made.com



Landing Sculptural lighting makes excellent use of the high ceilings above the living area. Pendant **lights**, Moooi.

Living room The open-plan format of the downstairs space is ideal for family life. Similar **log basket**, Trouva.

What do you do when you've outgrown your home but love its location too much to move? That's the dilemma the Gilmour family found themselves in for years – constantly on the lookout for exciting properties for sale in their Buckinghamshire market town, all the while making do in a too-small house. But then the plot that was to become their future home came up for sale.

'We love this area and have a wide circle of friends and family here,' says Jane. Although the couple had extended their current property, Jane's husband Stewart was eager for a new challenge. 'He has endless energy,' she says. 'He would take on another project tomorrow if he could.'

The property they bought had belonged to an elderly lady and hadn't been touched in years. 'We loved the quiet location at the end of a cul-de-sac, and we had been looking for a property that we could either extend significantly or knock down and rebuild,' says Jane. Given how rundown the house was, the couple chose to do the latter.

For seven months, while the couple developed their meticulous plans, the family of five lived in the rundown property. 'It was small and quite cold, but we managed to have fun. Let's just →

AT HOME WITH...

Owners Jane Gilmour, a lawyer, and her husband Stewart, who works in financial technology, live here with their three daughters, Emily, Beth and Elsa. The girls also have two hamsters, Misty and Teddy.

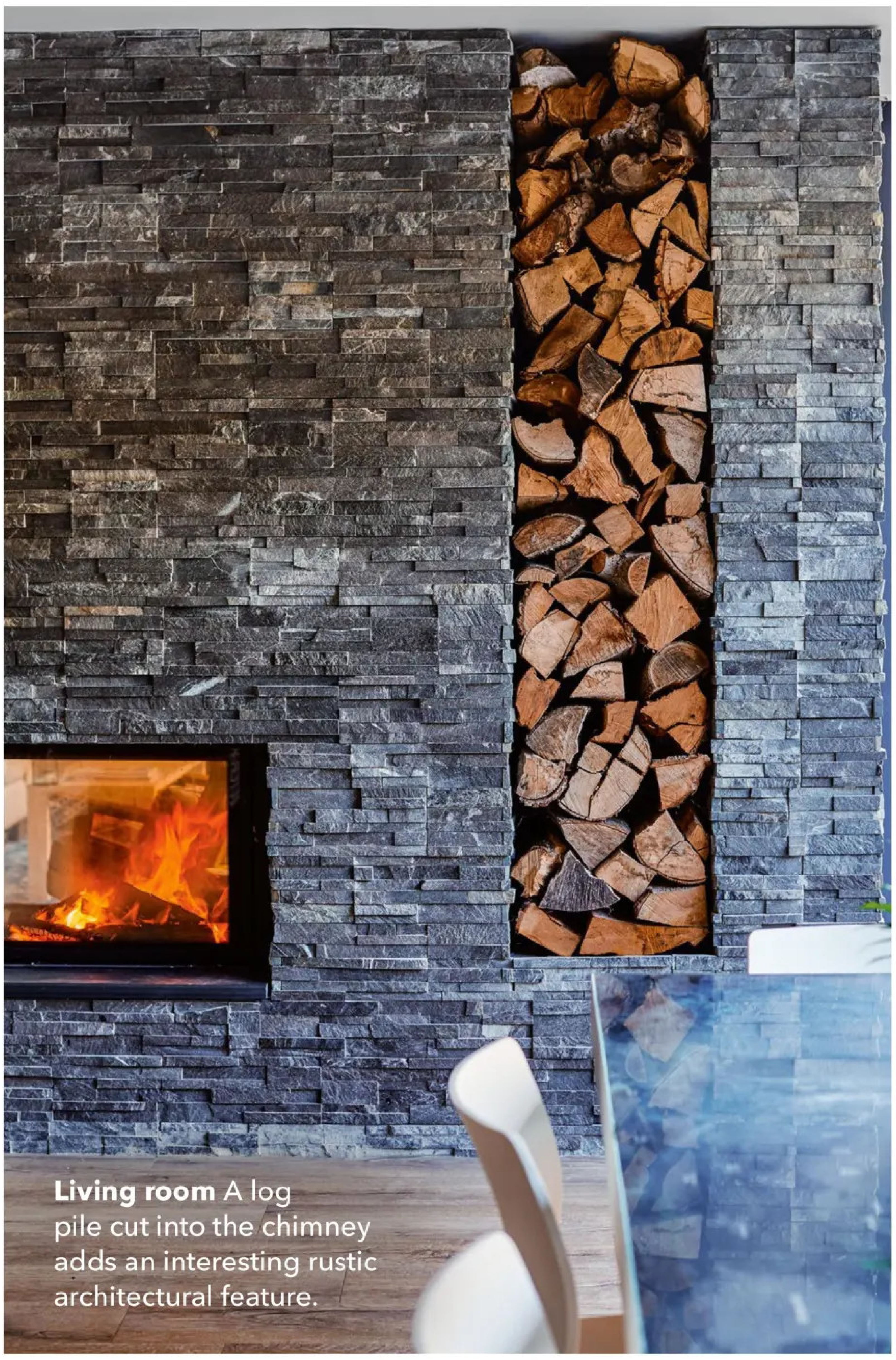
House A six-bedroom, modern family home designed by Stewart and OB Architecture.

say, it was not without its challenges,' says Jane. With the plans finalised, the Gilmours decamped to Jane's parents' home for a year while the job of knocking down and rebuilding began.

Stewart, who has a degree in industrial design, put his skills to use conceiving the new house, enlisting the help of architectural firm OB Architecture towards the end of the design phase. Having lived in London where space is at a premium, he was keenly aware of how to utilise every inch of square footage.

'Stewart designed the footprint to maximise the space in the plot, which has an unusual fan shape. Every inch has been dedicated to something useful,' explains Jane. The house is tilted diagonally across the plot, with a slightly shorter depth of lawn at the front. Impressively, Stewart also threw himself into the project management and the build itself, working on the brick cladding, landscaping the garden, and building the decking and children's playhouse.

Sharing a love of skiing, the family had a clear vision of their future home, which would be inspired by a contemporary yet cosy ski chalet. In wintertime, with underfloor heating in all the downstairs rooms and two open fireplaces, the house really comes into its own. 'It's incredibly economical and the heating bills are very low,' says Jane. Walking into the open-plan kitchen, you're met by a fireplace that is angled in three directions. 'We wanted it to be a central feature with the rustic brick chimney

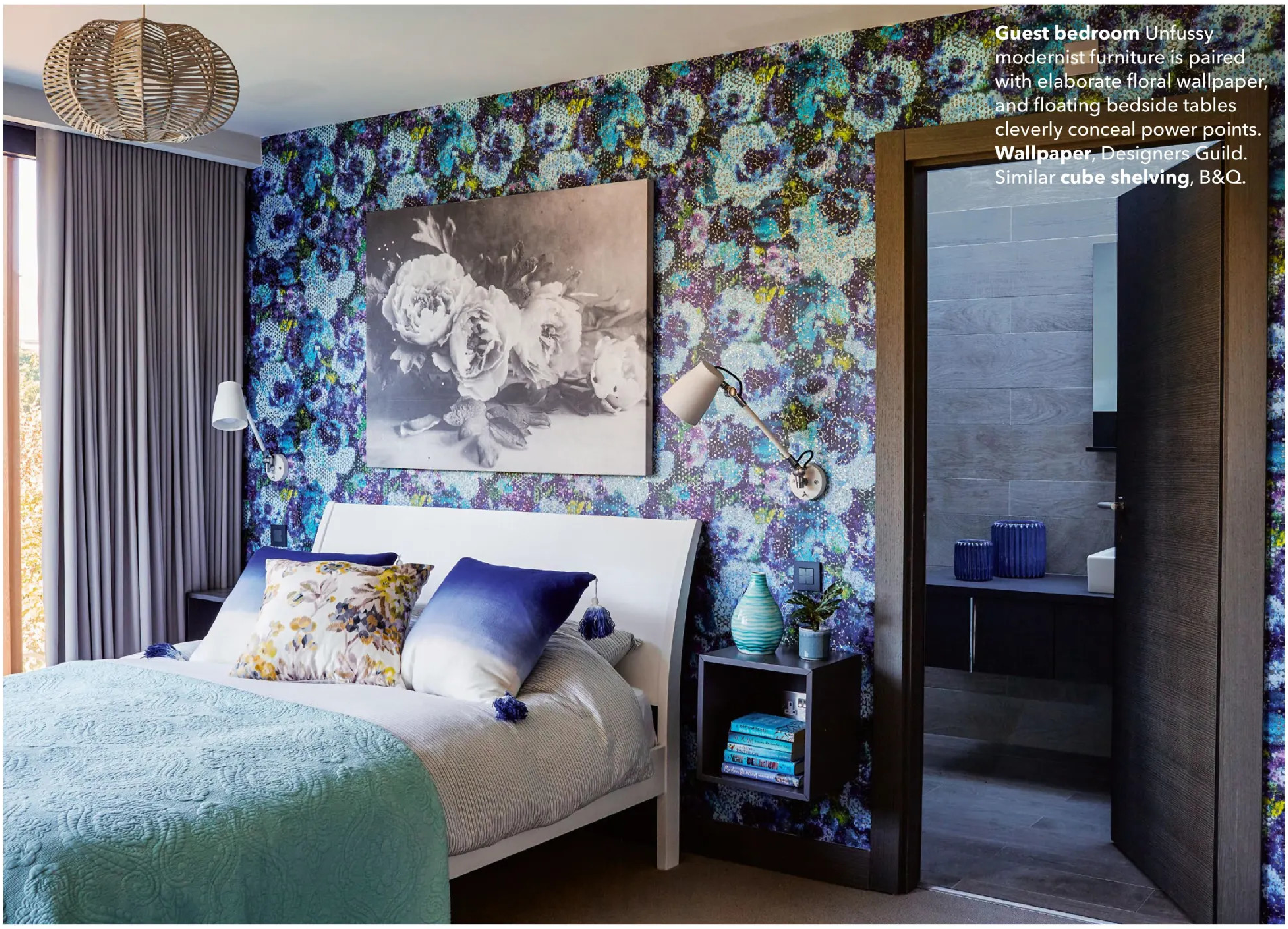


Living room A log pile cut into the chimney adds an interesting rustic architectural feature.

Kitchen A high bar area provides a sociable space for dinner guests to sit and enjoy a drink while the couple prepare the food. Henriksdal **bar stools**, Ikea; upholstered in Mosaic Mulberry matt **oil cloth**, Only Oilcloths. **Mirror**, Maisons du Monde.

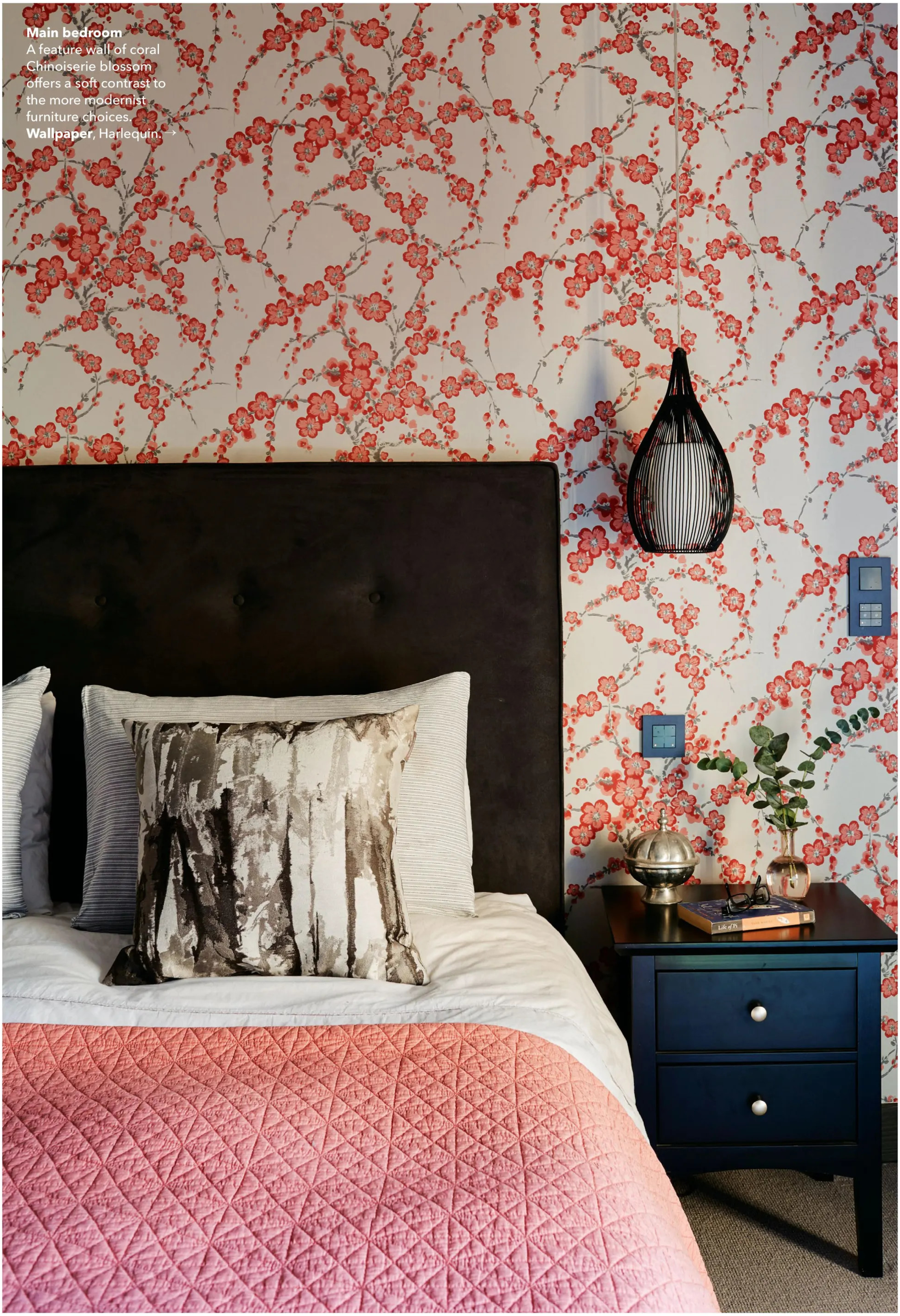
What we love most about living here...

‘The abundance of countryside. We’re in the Chiltern Hills and there’s a lot of local woodland. The transport links to London and the local schools are also both fantastic.’



Guest bedroom Unfussy modernist furniture is paired with elaborate floral wallpaper, and floating bedside tables cleverly conceal power points. **Wallpaper**, Designers Guild. Similar **cube shelving**, B&Q.

Kitchen The sleek, modern space provides ample storage for all the family's essentials.
Kitchen, Red Kite Kitchens. Calabash **pendants**, Lightyears at Utility Design.



Main bedroom
A feature wall of coral Chinoiserie blossom offers a soft contrast to the more modernist furniture choices.
Wallpaper, Harlequin. →

Bathroom A deep tub is the focal point of this modern scheme, while a punch of colour from the green side table adds interest to the calming grey tones. Similar **table**, Maisons du Monde.

Garden Cool Gardens designed the planting plan, but Stewart did all the landscaping himself, including laying the patios and gabion stone retaining walls. Similar **fire pit**, The Farthing.

stack stretching up to the next floor,' says Jane. A log pile, built into the wall, adds to the charm.

As the property was taking shape, it became obvious that colour would be important. 'In the early stages, the skeleton of the house was very neutral, so we wanted to introduce a vibrant palette that would make our home unique,' says Jane. She had reconnected with a childhood friend, Annabel Smith, who runs her own interior design firm, and together the two women worked on numerous mood boards and schemes to bring the house to life, including plans for several feature walls. Annabel also helped in upholstering furnishings and making light shades.

Stewart and Jane love entertaining so they chose to include a kitchen bar, as well as free-flowing space from the kitchen to the living area, which is ideal for hosting guests. The family room, separated from the kitchen by a sliding pocket door, gets a lot of use in the evenings. 'Often the girls will be watching a film in there while I'm cooking,' says Jane. And sliding doors open up the entire ground floor to the garden, so the chalet-style house reflects the seasons. 'We like the sense of bringing the garden inside,' says Jane.

☎ Annabel Smith Interiors, annabelsmithinteriors.com. OB Architecture, obarchitecture.co.uk.

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'We're National Trust members and love visiting Cliveden in nearby Taplow (01628 605069, nationaltrust.org.uk/cliveden). The gardens and woodlands down to the river are wonderful.'

Shop at... 'Mira (01494 677990) in Beaconsfield. It's a quirky gift shop that sells unusual gifts, jewellery and clothes.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Cape (01494 681137, thecapeonline.com) in Beaconsfield does a fantastic brunch. We also love walking to The Royal Standard of England, also in Beaconsfield, for a Sunday pub lunch (01494 673382, rsoe.co.uk). It's the oldest freehold pub in England and is cosy and atmospheric.'

DORSET RESTORATION

Pure and simple

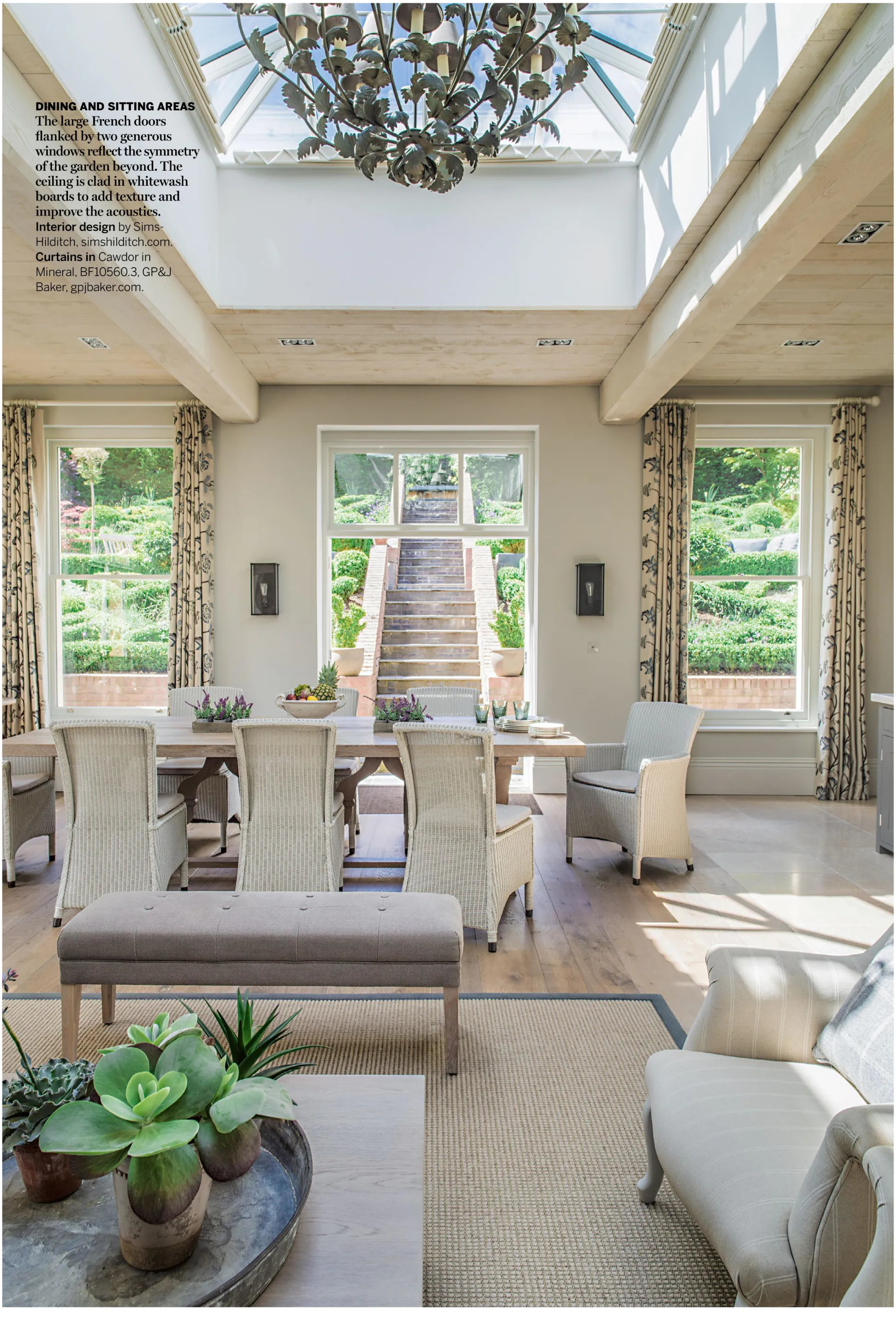
This spacious family home has been reconfigured with a highly practical layout that gives it a charming informality

WORDS JENNIFER GOULDING **PHOTOGRAPHY** MEL YATES

KITCHEN

James and Sarah asked their interior designer Emma Sims-Hilditch to source pieces by their favourite artists that would work well in their new home. The result includes these two animal paintings by Debbie Boon.

For **Debbie Boon artwork**, try Collier & Dobson, collierdobson.com. **Suffolk kitchen** in shale; **Suffolk bar stools**, all Neptune, neptune.com. →



DINING AND SITTING AREAS The large French doors flanked by two generous windows reflect the symmetry of the garden beyond. The ceiling is clad in whitewash boards to add texture and improve the acoustics. **Interior design** by Sims-Hilditch, simshilditch.com. **Curtains in** Cawdor in Mineral, BF10560.3, GP&J Baker, gpjbaker.com.

DINING ROOM
Upholstered chairs add a splash of colour and pattern to this intimate room.
Bespoke chairs in Queen's Sampler in Bronze, B10650.1, GP&J Baker, gpjbaker.com. →

SITTING ROOM
A limestone fireplace gives this space a suitably formal focal point.
The Burlington fireplace, Chesneys, chesneys.co.uk.
Curtains in Morrison in Icy Blue, L9035-01, Larsen at Colefax & Fowler, colefax.com. →

When James and Sarah Ainsworth relocated to Dorset with their two daughters, they enlisted the expert help of interior designer Emma Sims-Hilditch to create the family home they had always aspired to. Here, we talk to James and Emma to discover more about the project.

How well did you know the area?
JA We were not familiar with it and had no idea where we wanted to live, so we rented while we looked for somewhere to buy. Past mistakes had taught us to wait for the right house. Sarah and I are confident of our likes and dislikes, and we fully expected to be renovating whichever house we eventually found.

What did you discover while renting?
JA The house we rented had outbuildings, 27 acres of land and no immediate neighbours. It made us realise that although we wanted peace and quiet, we also wanted to be near the shops and within walking distance of the girls' schools. We now live in a peaceful cul-de-sac in town with everything we need nearby. Best of both worlds.

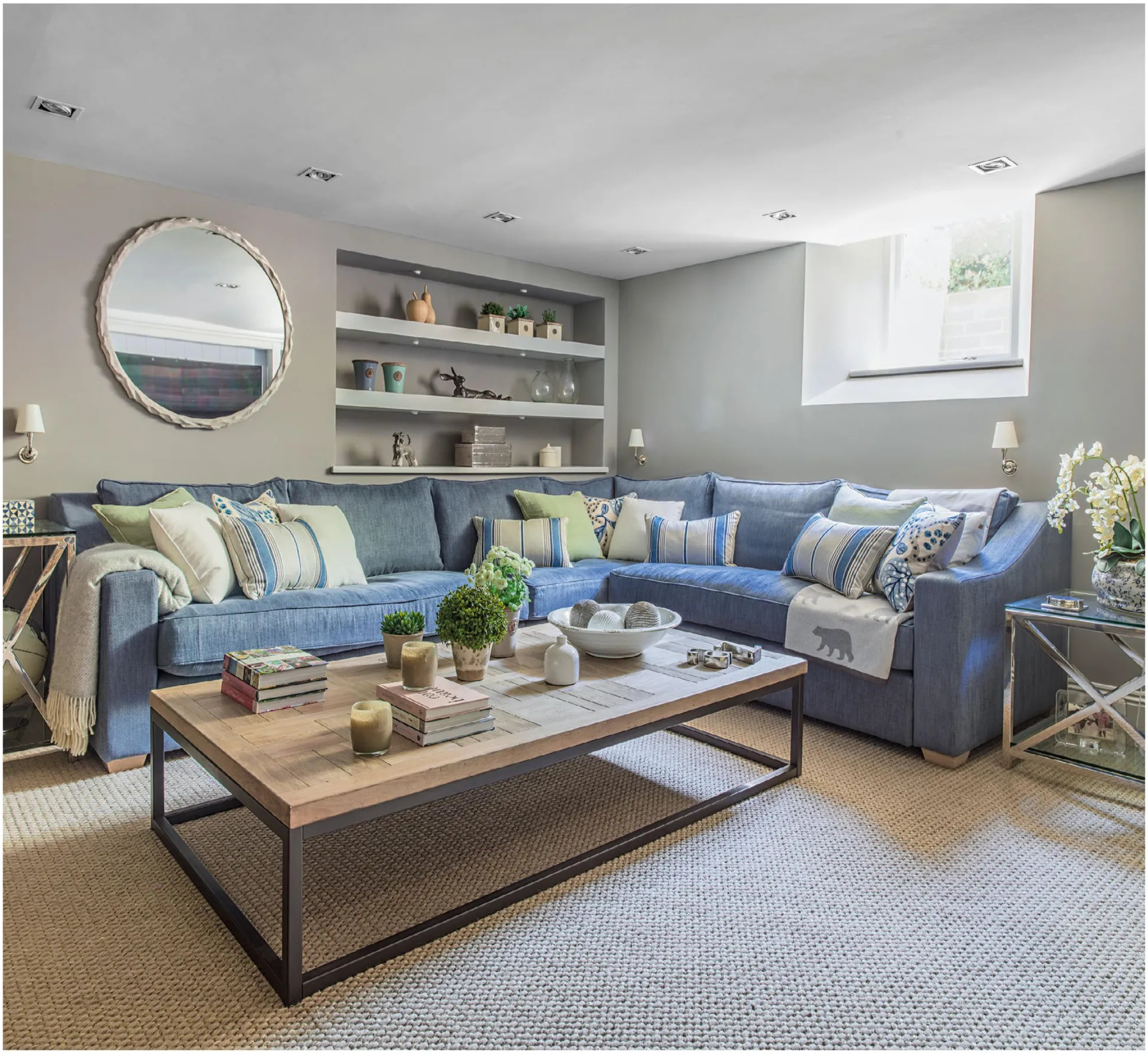
How long did it take to find the right house?
JA It was about a year. On paper the house did not meet any of our criteria, but the agent suggested we look at it anyway. It was not as big as the other houses we viewed, but we liked the feel of it. I suppose you don't know what you want until you see it.

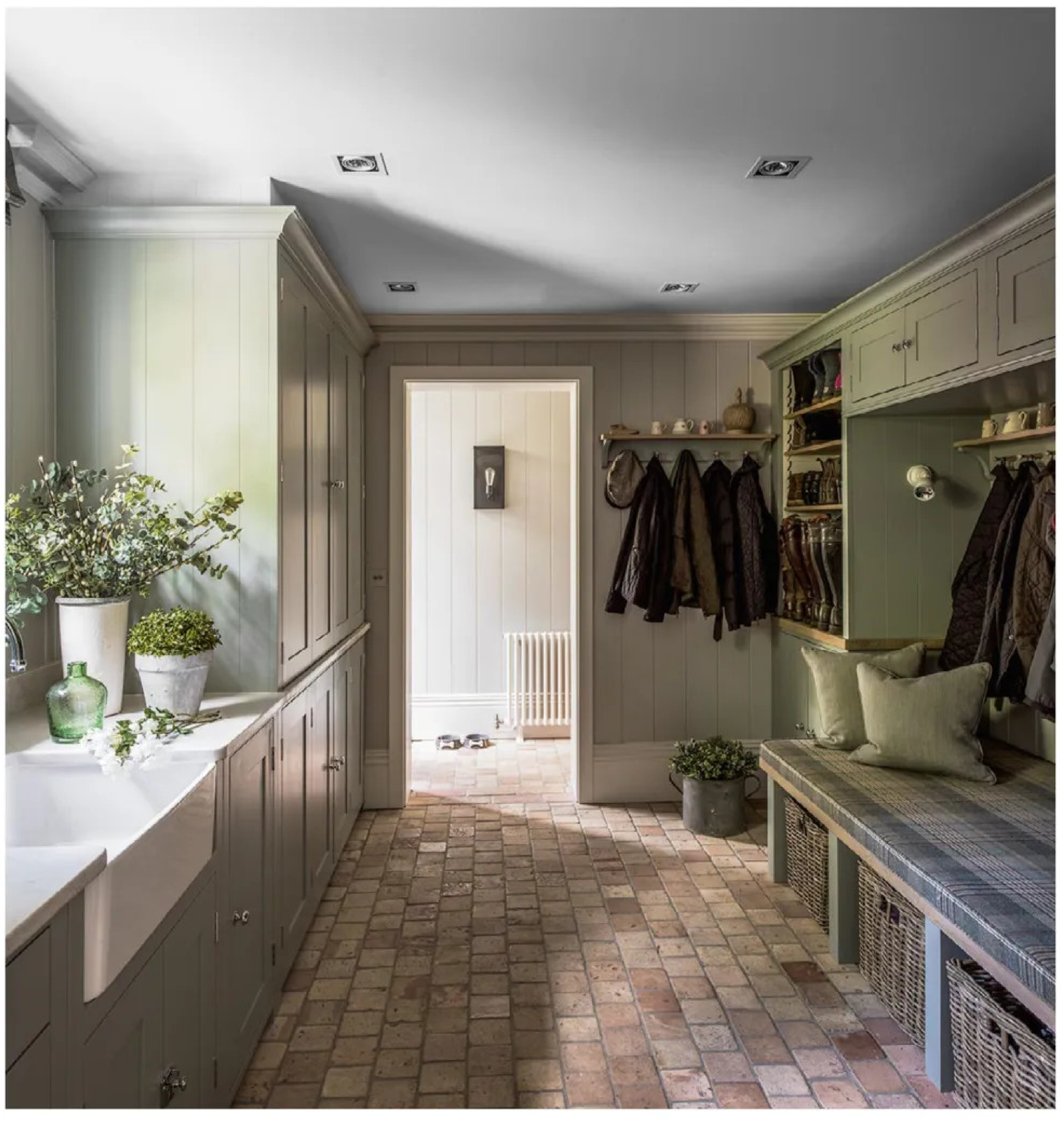
Was the house in good condition?
JA The previous owners had converted it back to a family home from flats around five or six years ago. They had also tanked the cellar and made it into several rooms. However, it was not to our taste, particularly the kitchen, which for us is the most important room in the house.

Did you make any structural changes?
ESH We preserved the original, grand parts of the house while opening up and rationalising the secondary spaces that had been added later on. Key to achieving this was replacing the rear extension with a much larger, open-plan kitchen, dining and seating area.

What sort of brief did you give Emma?
JA We asked for something modern with lots of natural light that felt like a country home without any associated stuffiness. It had to be both practical and comfortable, but we also wanted it to look stunning.
ESH James and Sarah are very family orientated and it was important to reflect that. They wanted something calm but warm that was functional and not at all precious.

Is the kitchen still the most important part of the house?
JA It is a great and much-used room. Everyone can have their own space even when we are all in there together. There is a big table, lots of natural light and wonderful views of the hills, especially when the doors are wide open.



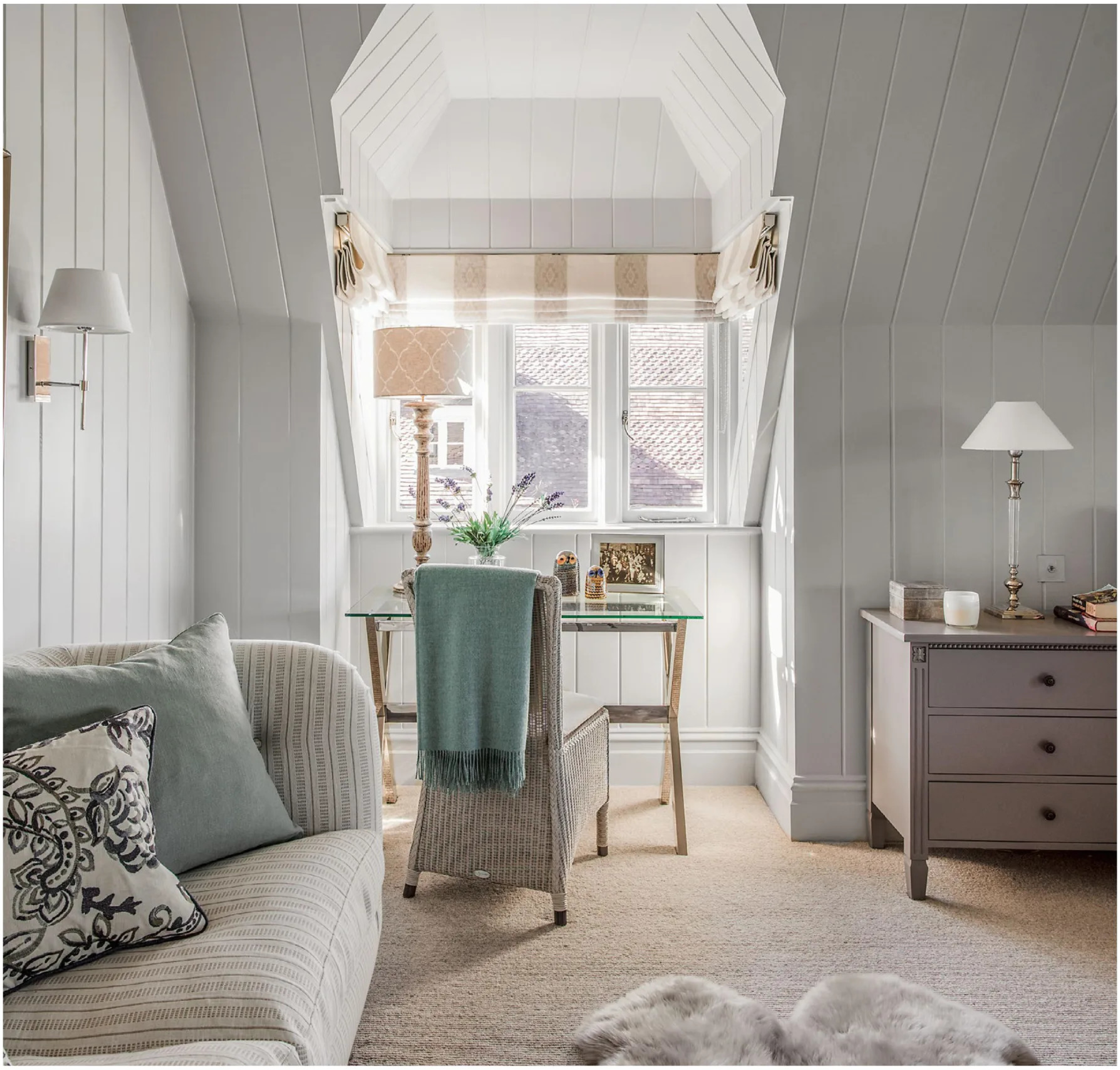


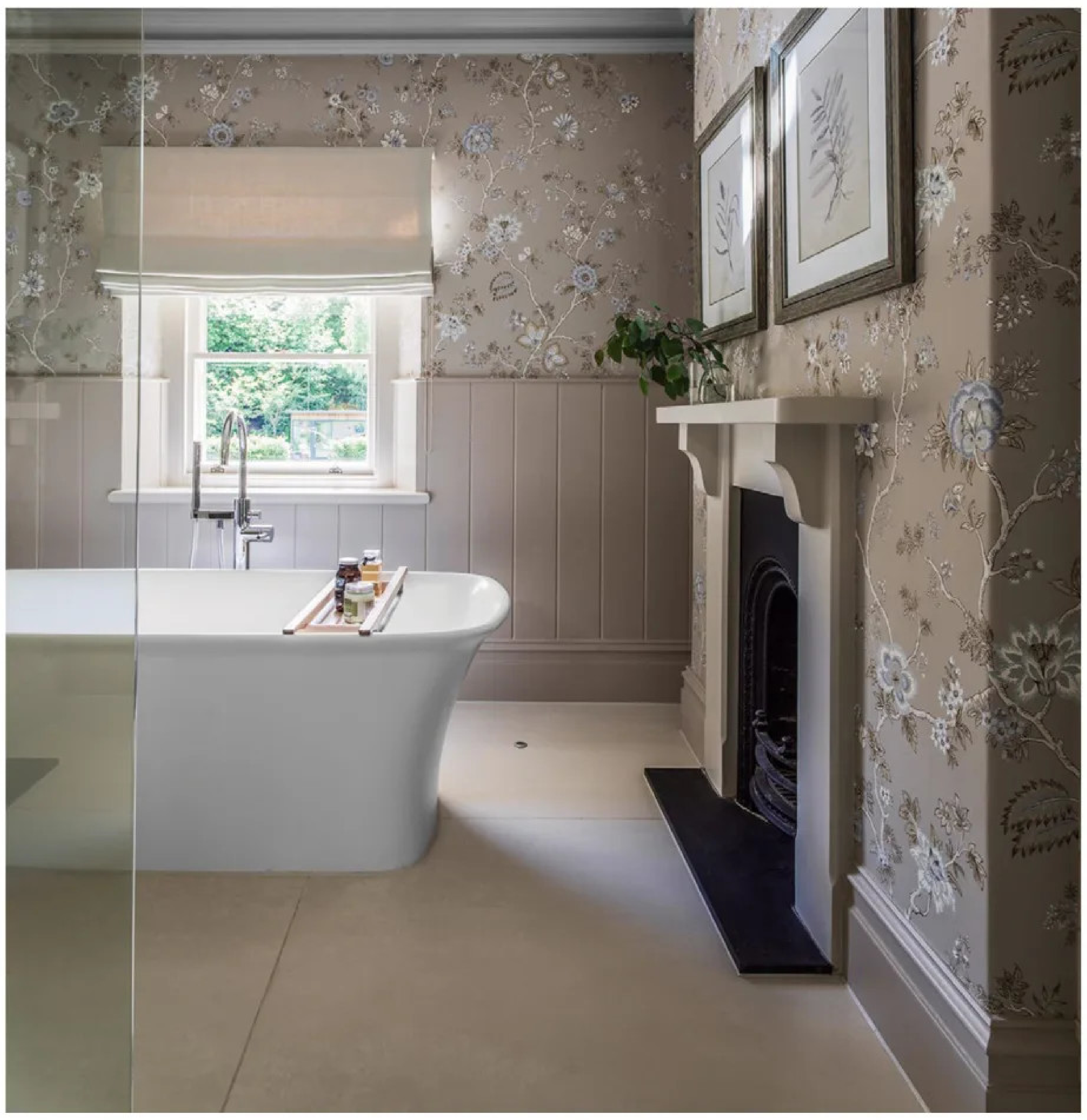
HALL
The original Victorian tiled floor inspired the colour palette for the entire house.
Fleeing Pheasants cushion, Chelsea Textiles, chelseatextiles.com.

BOOT ROOM
The Ainsworth family are keen walkers, so this smart and capacious boot room, which was created from three small rooms, is a valuable addition to the house.
Floor in Lubelska reclaimed brick tiles, Kamstar, kamstar.co.uk.

FAMILY ROOM
To take advantage of its low ceiling, this basement room has been turned into a cosy space where the family can relax, play board games and watch films together.
Twig mirror in aged plaster, Porta Romana, portaromana.com. →

MAIN BEDROOM
A warm, textured linen wallcovering gives James and Sarah's reconfigured room a sophisticated look. **Walls** in Montalin in Mist, WTT6410 94, Stark, starkcarpet.co.uk. **Ascona glass vase table lamp**, Vaughan, vaughandesigns.com.





GUEST BEDROOM
Tucked away at the top of the house, this room's tongue-and-groove panelling highlights the interesting shape of the ceiling.
Cushions in Beldi in Stone, FWY 2389/02, William Yeoward at Designers Guild, designersguild.com.

GUEST BATHROOM
An opulent wallpaper makes this space a decadent, indulgent sanctuary.
Walls in Indienne Tint in Wisteria wide width wallpaper, Lewis & Wood, lewisandwood.com.

English eclectic

Using a bold, rich palette has turned a tired farmhouse into a stunning family home for Claire and Simon Read

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY ELTES

Living room
Squishy sofas layered with cushions create a cosy feel, while a boldly patterned footstool adds an eye-catching touch. **Footstool**, inherited, upholstered in Kilim Sarouk, Linwood. For a similar **mirror**, try The Cotswold Company. →

Boot room This area links the barn with the main house. **Walls** painted in Clunch by Farrow & Ball. **Coat hook**, MöA Design. **Baskets**, Soho Home.

Living room The framed maps are part of Claire's collection. **Footstool**, eBay. For similar **throws**, try John Lewis & Partners.

For Claire and Simon Read, it's always been a case of opposites attract. 'When Simon and I met we joked that it was like Jane Austen dating Damien Hirst!' says Claire. 'We both have very different tastes, although over the years we have settled somewhere in between.'

They bought their beautiful Cotswolds property as a bolthole to escape from London for holidays and weekends, and it's a complete contrast to their place in the city. While their London home has a modern Scandinavian-inspired monochrome interior, their idyllic country house embraces characterful period features and a colourful, eclectic scheme.

'We live in central London and miss not having a garden. We wanted to give the children a sense of country living,' says Claire. Finding a suitable property took some time.

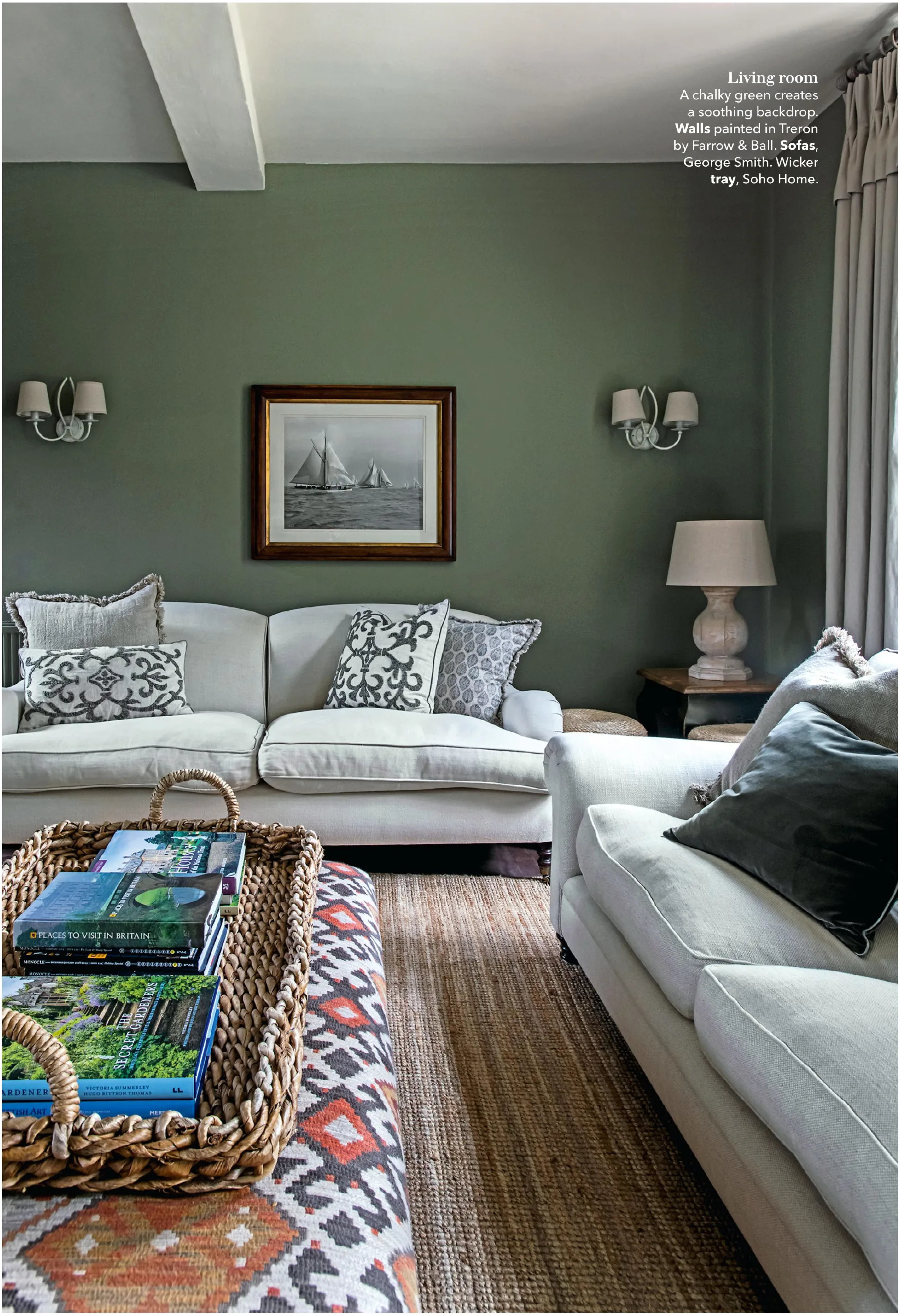
'We had looked for ages, but couldn't find what we wanted,' she says. The couple were still on an estate agent's mailing list, however, and when the details of one particular house came through, it caught their attention.

'The house was so pretty,' she says. 'It's made of Cotswold stone and has a French look, which really appealed. Added to that, Simon knew the area as he grew up nearby.' →

AT HOME WITH...

Owners **Claire Read is an art historian and her husband Simon runs an advertising agency. They have two sons, Finn and Magnus.**

House **Grade II listed Queen Anne property built in 1707, with six bedrooms. They bought it in 2018.**



Living room
A chalky green creates a soothing backdrop. **Walls** painted in Treron by Farrow & Ball. **Sofas**, George Smith. Wicker **tray**, Soho Home.

Dining room
Rich patterns introduce a colourful touch. **Curtain** fabric in Oakmere, Iliv.

Dining room
Bold blue walls and washed wood furniture add elegance. Reclaimed French **table**, Nicky Cornell. **Chairs**, Pure White Lines.

As soon as Claire and Simon walked into the house, they knew this was the one. 'Our London house is very contemporary, but this house has beautiful original details, such as beams, shutters, fireplaces and stable doors – all the lovely aspects, without being too glamorous,' says Claire. 'It definitely is a farmhouse, although it has a Queen Anne facade.'

The house had been rented out as self-catering accommodation for ten years. 'It really needed updating,' says Claire. 'There was only one bathroom for four bedrooms. It wasn't made for modern family life.' The couple decided to embark on a big building project, aware that the house is Grade II listed, meaning there were restrictions on what could be done.

Upstairs they installed four new bathrooms, so every bedroom in the house has its own bathroom, apart from on the top floor, where two bedrooms share one. They then built an extension that links the farmhouse with a barn beside it. 'It means we can go into the barn from the house and be undercover,' says Claire. The barn was insulated and underfloor heating was installed, and it is now used as a games room. The extension acts as a boot room, with an extra cloakroom, and also provides a back door to the house. 'The changes have made the house more practical as a family home,' says Claire. →

LIVING THE DREAM

Claire and Simon's eclectic style reflects their different tastes.

Where did you take your inspiration from?

'One of our favourite places to visit is Kettle's Yard in Cambridge. Its furnishings perfectly combine traditional English vernacular with mid-century design.'

What retro pieces have you introduced?

'We've included early 18th-century furnishings, acknowledging the house's history. We have also included mid-century banana sofas, G Plan desks and chests of drawers.'

Why did you use bold colours and patterns?

'The house is over 300 years old and full of idiosyncrasies and original features. We felt it could carry strong colours and we wanted to be bold in the tiles we selected.'

Kitchen
The low-beamed ceiling gives a cosy feel. **Cabinets** painted in French Gray; **island** painted in Railings, both Farrow & Ball. Bar **stools**, Peppermill Interiors. Range **cooker**, Aga.

Bedroom
Exposed stone walls and wood beams create a rustic backdrop. **Chair**, Parker Knoll. **Stool**, Soho Home.

Bathroom
Colourful patterned tiles add a playful touch. **Tiles**, Bert & May.

Because of the historic nature of the house – including an 18th-century bread oven that sits between the kitchen and the room next door, Claire and Simon weren't able to enlarge the kitchen. Instead, they made the adjacent room into a breakfast room/utility. To emphasise the house's period character further, concealed fireplaces were opened up and wooden floorboards exposed. The builders did all the work in only 12 weeks.

Decorating the property offered a different opportunity from their London home. 'We felt it could carry strong shades and patterns – it isn't our permanent home, so we felt confident to choose bold tiles for the bathrooms that were playful and fun,' explains Claire. 'We opted for interesting colours, and incorporated mid-century furnishings and antiques. Some of the light fittings are also mid-century. We wanted an eclectic mix.

'We also rent out the house and we took that into consideration when decorating,' says Claire. 'It's good to have people here and have the house being used.'

A sojourn in the countryside has plenty of benefits for the family. 'We love it here with the roaring fires and Aga,' says Claire. 'We can entertain family and friends as it's a lovely space with plenty of room. The boys adore it – it's a big adventure for them. It's also peaceful here – we enjoy the silence at night, and it's very restorative.'

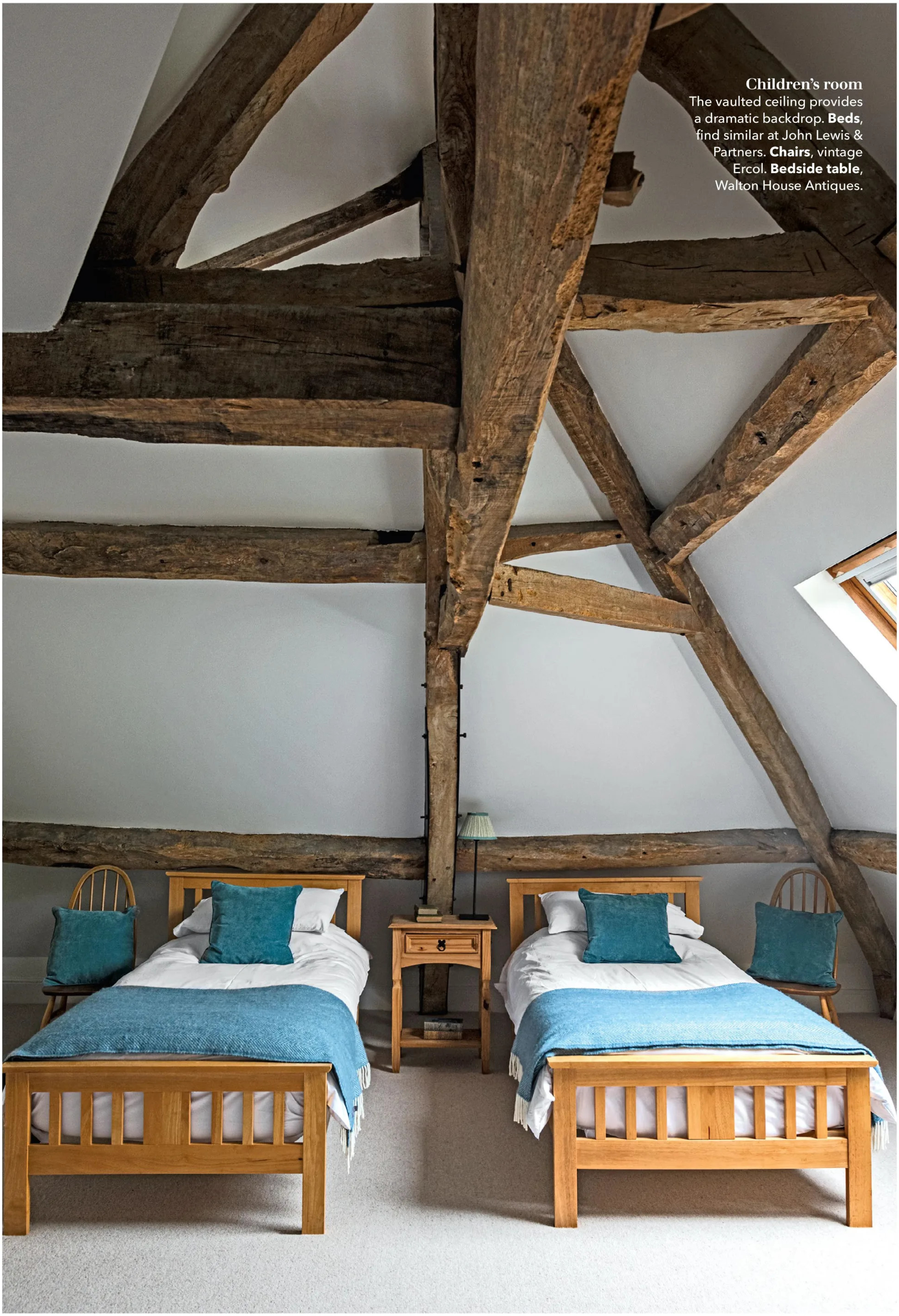
To stay at Yew Tree Farmhouse visit staycotswold.com

ON OUR DOORSTEP

Visit… **'Buscot Park (nationaltrust.org.uk/buscot-park) in Faringdon, Oxfordshire, an 18th-century neoclassical house with beautiful grounds to explore.'**

Shop at… **'Lynwood & Co Cafe (lynwoodandco.com) in Fairford, which serves proper coffee and homemade cakes. Also visit TT Linnet (01793 763858) in Highworth for delicious freshly baked sourdough.'**

Go for a meal at… **'The Swan at Southrop (thyme.co.uk/dining/the-swan-at-southrop), a stunning 17th-century pub next to the green with a wonderful atmosphere, or Barnsley House (barnsleyhouse.com) for more extravagant celebrations.'**



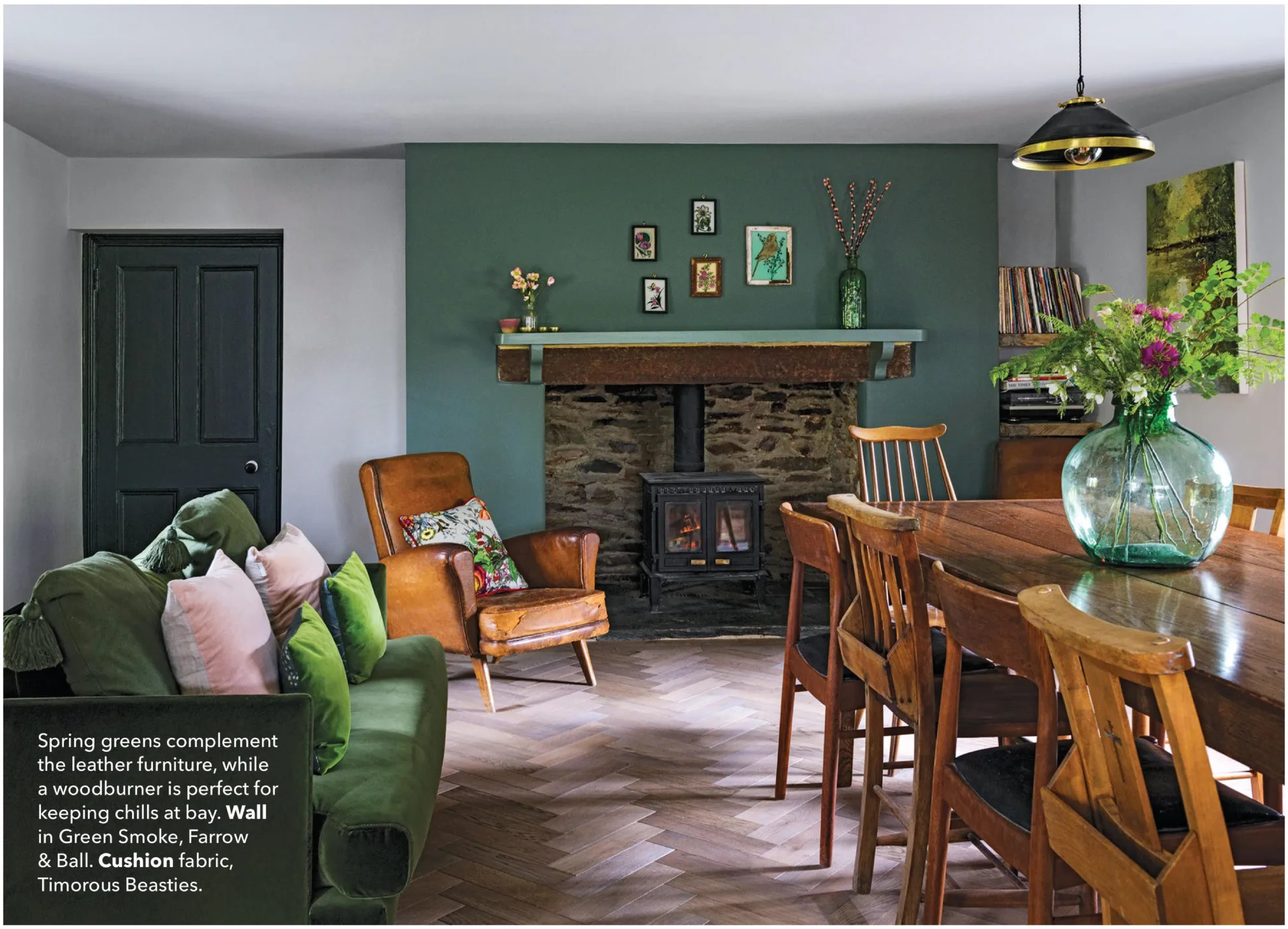
Children's room
The vaulted ceiling provides a dramatic backdrop. **Beds**, find similar at John Lewis & Partners. **Chairs**, vintage Ercol. **Bedside table**, Walton House Antiques.

Kitchen
Emily gave the Shaker-style cabinets a modern twist with bold colours. **Cabinetry**, Yealm Kitchens, in Hague Blue, Farrow & Ball. **Island** in Green Smoke by Farrow & Ball. Reclaimed farmhouse **table**, Peppermill Interiors. Glass **pendant lights**, Rothschild and Bickers.

Period drama

Emily Hutchings and Raymond Seager have confidently revamped a rural period property, employing a palette of dark tones and incorporating rich fabrics and bold designs

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYRES **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY ELTES



Spring greens complement the leather furniture, while a woodburner is perfect for keeping chills at bay. **Wall** in Green Smoke, Farrow & Ball. **Cushion** fabric, Timorous Beasties.

There's a Bloomsbury Group-meets-country-house vibe to this beautiful Devonshire farmhouse. Think Bohemian comfort, rich colours and bold florals with a quirky edge – due to House of Hackney fabrics that bring maximalist colour to traditional florals. 'We knew we could go bold in this house, and we were keen to give it a modern feel,' says Emily Hutchings, who lives here with her husband Raymond Seager and their two young children. 'We were inspired to create an interior that featured deep shades and opulent fabrics. It was a fantastic opportunity to be more confident about our decor choices.'

The couple moved from London to Totnes two years ago, after a long search for the perfect countryside home for their family. 'We struggled to find a house that would work for us until we walked into this farmhouse,' says Emily. 'We immediately felt it had the homely, friendly feel that we had been looking for in a house, yet the space still had so much potential. It still had its original features, such as windows, stone walls and fireplaces, so we wanted to work with what was already here. Fortunately, there weren't many structural changes required. It was quite open for a farmhouse, and we knew we would be able to turn its three bedrooms into five and make better use of the space.' →

AT HOME WITH...

Owners **Emily Hutchings is an acupuncturist and massage therapist and her husband Raymond Seager is a consultant. They also run the Willows Rest holiday accommodation (willowsrest.co.uk). They live here with their children, Archie and Lottie.**

House **A Grade II listed 300-year-old five-bedroom farmhouse. They bought it in 2016.**

Dining area
A large table was chosen to seat plenty of guests, while the original shutters are complemented by a bold floral design blind. **Blind** in Delft velvet Noir, Designers Guild. Black Holophane **pendant**, Felix Lighting. **Artwork**, Claire Wiltsher. →

Exterior
The 300-year-old farmhouse is set among beautiful gardens.

> “WE WANTED TO EXPERIMENT – WE KNEW WE COULD BE BOLDER IN THE FARMHOUSE, AND WE WERE KEEN FOR IT TO HAVE A MODERN FEEL”

Landing
Distressed floorboards inject a shabby chic feel. **Blind fabric**; patterned **cushions**, both Timorous Beasties. Side **table**, Rockett St George. **Lampshade**, Pooky.

LIVING THE DREAM

Emily and Raymond have created an opulent interior with rich shades and sumptuous textural fabrics.

What are your favourite fabric designers?

‘We love using designs from Timorous Beasties and House of Hackney.’

How did you decide on fabrics?

‘We didn’t specifically look for designer fabrics but fell in love with the unique patterns and colours they offered.’

What do you think they bring to each scheme?

‘They lend a sense of vibrance and luxury to the rooms.’

How did you incorporate an opulent feel?

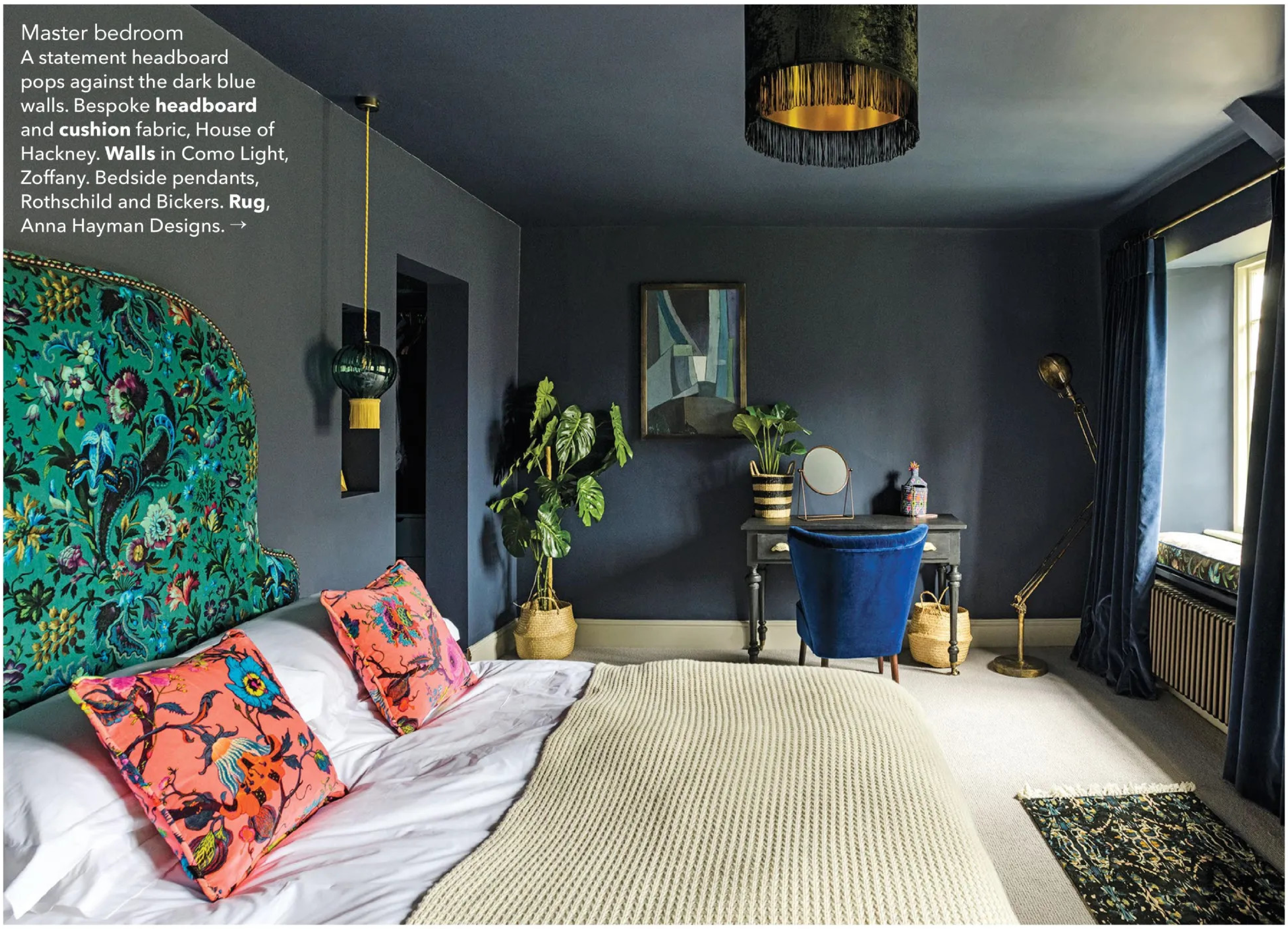
‘We chose to use deep colours and rich velvet fabrics that showcased the fabric design.’

Living room
Pops of yellow add a zingy touch to the teal backdrop. **Rug**, original Afghan. Yellow **cushion** fabric, Linwood.

Living room
A mid-century chair adds stylish seating. **Chair**, Ebay, re-upholstered in Butterfly Palm Lago, Linwood. Pink **cushion**, Cox & Cox. Butterfly **cushion**; **blind** fabric, both Timorous Beasties. **Wall** in Rivington Blue, Abigail Ahern.

Adding to the appeal of the house, the previous owner was a keen horticulturalist and had created a stunning garden with plants that bloom at different times of year. 'We loved the garden,' says Emily. 'It was well planted and perfect for the children, as it was a safe space for them to run around and play in.' The house also came with a barn and cottage that she and Raymond planned to convert into a holiday rental to provide them with an income (that property, Willows Rest, featured in the October 2019 issue of *Country Homes & Interiors*).

The renovation of the barn was the couple's first priority and, once that was complete, they lived in it while they worked on the farmhouse. First, they tackled the heating system – renewable energy was a prerequisite, so they installed a ground source heat pump, solar panels and underfloor heating to replace the previously oil-run utilities. Next, they removed various stud walls to make the layout more family friendly. Originally the kitchen was two separate rooms, so the couple removed a wall to create a larger, open-plan space that incorporated dining and seating areas. 'We were quite set on what we wanted to do in here,' says Emily. 'We were keen for the table to be the focus of the kitchen-diner and we needed to have a large one, as we love entertaining friends and family.' →



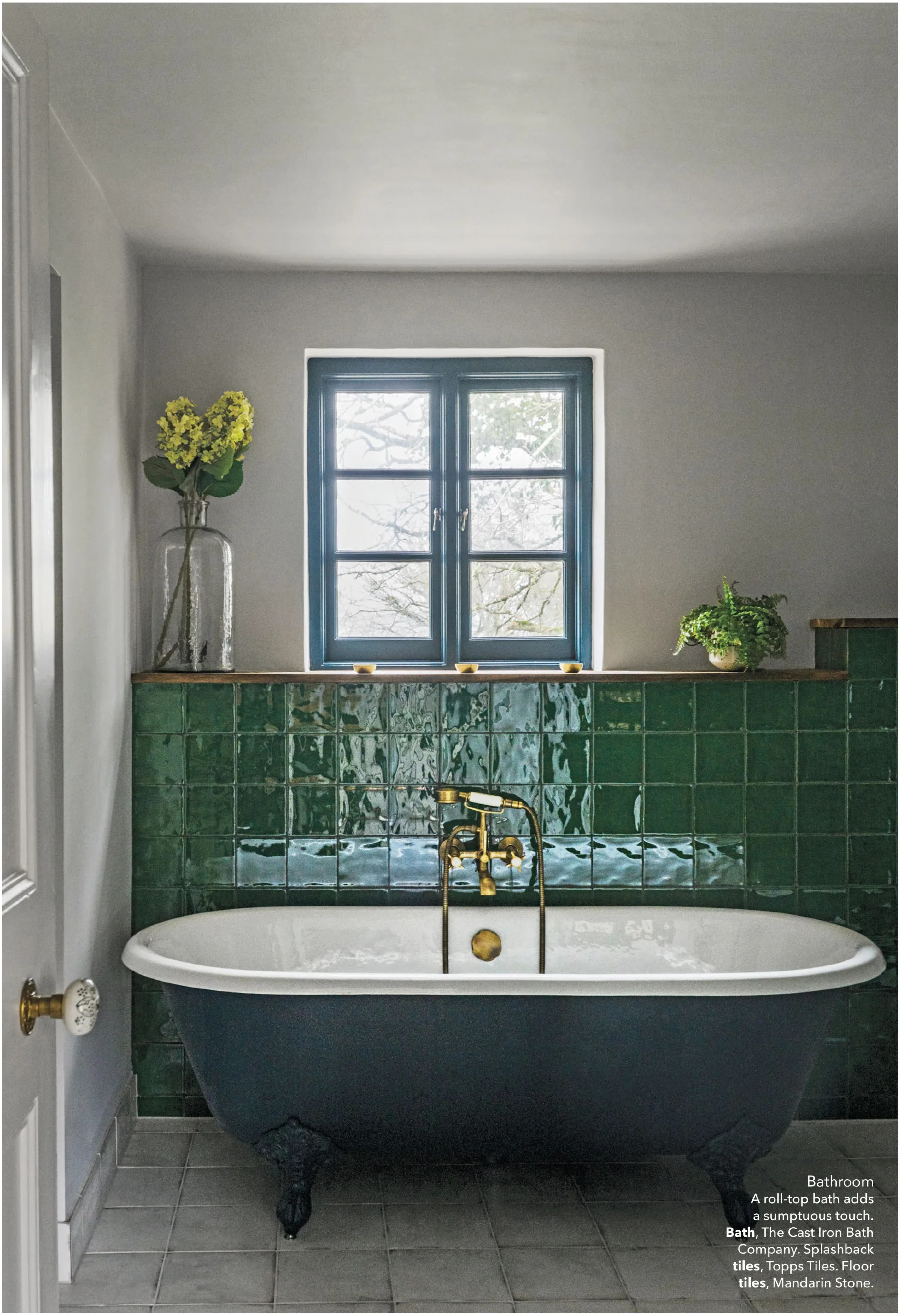
Master bedroom
A statement headboard pops against the dark blue walls. Bespoke **headboard** and **cushion** fabric, House of Hackney. **Walls** in Como Light, Zoffany. Bedside pendants, Rothschild and Bickers. **Rug**, Anna Hayman Designs. →

New kitchen cabinets in a classic Shaker style were fitted and given a modern twist with a lick of deep blue paint, while the island was painted a smoky green. The couple also moved a stud wall upstairs in Archie's bedroom to create more space. Finally, new bathrooms were installed.

Having already decorated the barn, Emily and Raymond were influenced by what they had done there. 'We learned a lot from the work of Siobhan Hayles, who did the interior design for the barn and helped us out with some of the rooms in the farmhouse,' Emily explains. 'We saw what worked when putting together fabrics and colours and we were keen to experiment. Hanging artwork was a must – Raymond's grandmother was an artist and we now had the opportunity to display her work. We were also able to indulge my love of tiles with a tiled floor in the hallway and a pink tiled splashback in the kitchen.'

Sumptuous fabrics abound, with House of Hackney designs in the main bedroom (particularly appropriate as Emily and Raymond had moved from that part of London), Designers Guild florals in the kitchen and Linwood velvets throughout. 'We used as much furniture as we could from our old house – we had a number of mid-century pieces that we incorporated and reupholstered,' says Emily.

The family are thrilled with the end result. 'It took a few years, but we've got the dream home we wanted,' say Emily. 'It's a wonderful way of life for the children. There's space to roam and be among nature – both for them and for us.' ▪



Bathroom
A roll-top bath adds a sumptuous touch. **Bath**, The Cast Iron Bath Company. Splashback **tiles**, Topps Tiles. Floor **tiles**, Mandarin Stone.

ON OUR DOORSTEP

Visit… **'We love visiting Greenway House (nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway), the holiday home of Agatha Christie. The walled gardens are beautiful and the views across the Dart Estuary are fantastic. The children love the adventure of getting there by crossing the river on the passenger ferry.'**

Shop at… **'Stokeley Farm Shop (stokeleyfarmshop.co.uk) is another family favourite. The shop is packed with delicious organic local fruit, veg and meat and has a great child-friendly café. There are also local artisans selling art, jewellery, clothing and soft furnishings.'**

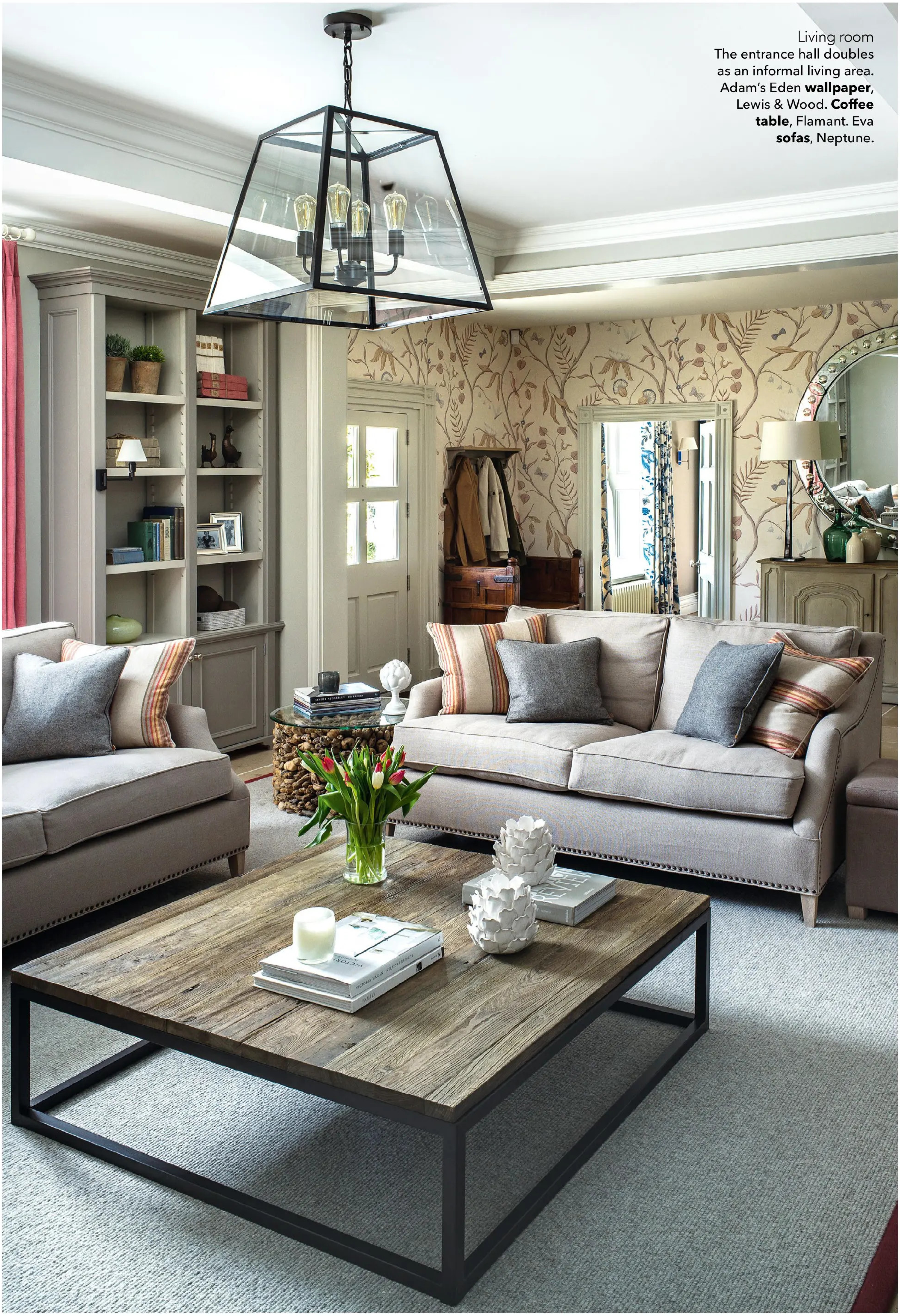
Go for a meal at… **'The New Inn (thenewinnmorleigh.co.uk) at Morleigh serves the best steak and chips for miles and is the perfect place to settle down in front of the fire with a glass of wine.'**

History revealed

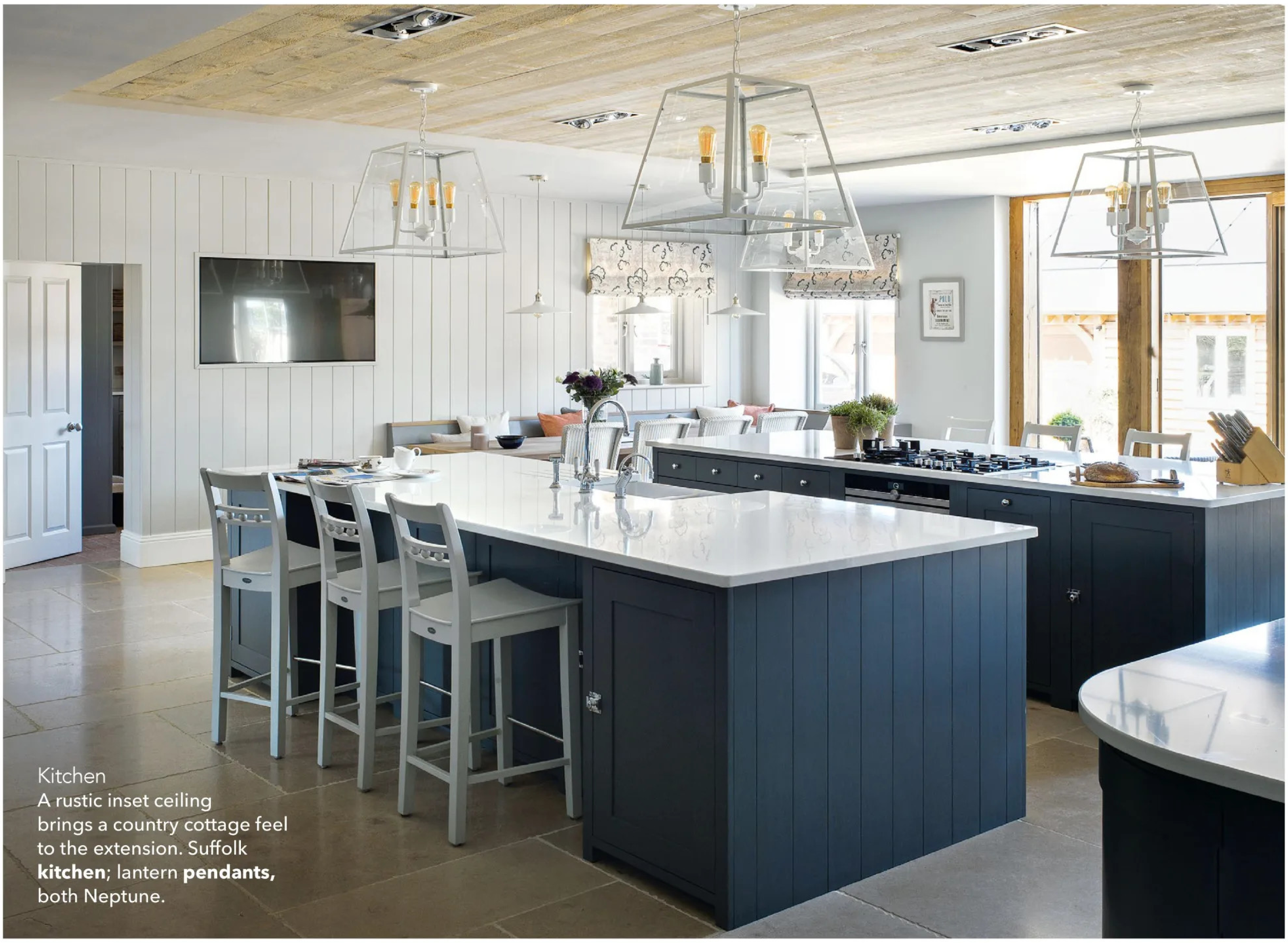
The renovation of this farmhouse revealed a fascinating past that Stephanie and Steven Thorne were eager to preserve

FEATURE JULIET BENNING **PHOTOGRAPHY** PAUL RAESIDE

Exterior
The house was built in the late 17th century, with some parts dating back to the early 1600s. →



Living room
The entrance hall doubles as an informal living area. Adam's Eden **wallpaper**, Lewis & Wood. **Coffee table**, Flamant. Eva **sofas**, Neptune.



Kitchen
A rustic inset ceiling brings a country cottage feel to the extension. Suffolk **kitchen**; lantern **pendants,** both Neptune.

Having several hundred years of history to contend with always makes a house renovation more complicated. For Stephanie and Steven Thorne's 17th-century farmhouse, its epic age meant a challenging journey as the couple transformed the dated interior into a gracefully refined modern country home, learning plenty about its past along the way.

The farmhouse, set romantically amid acres of Dorset countryside, was never going to be a project for the faint hearted, but Steve had learnt from the experience of two previous renovations. 'I discovered it by chance while browsing a property website, but because I'd promised Steph that our existing home would be the last I'd renovate, I went to see it on my own first,' says Steve. It was the height of summer and he was beguiled by the property with its extensive grounds.

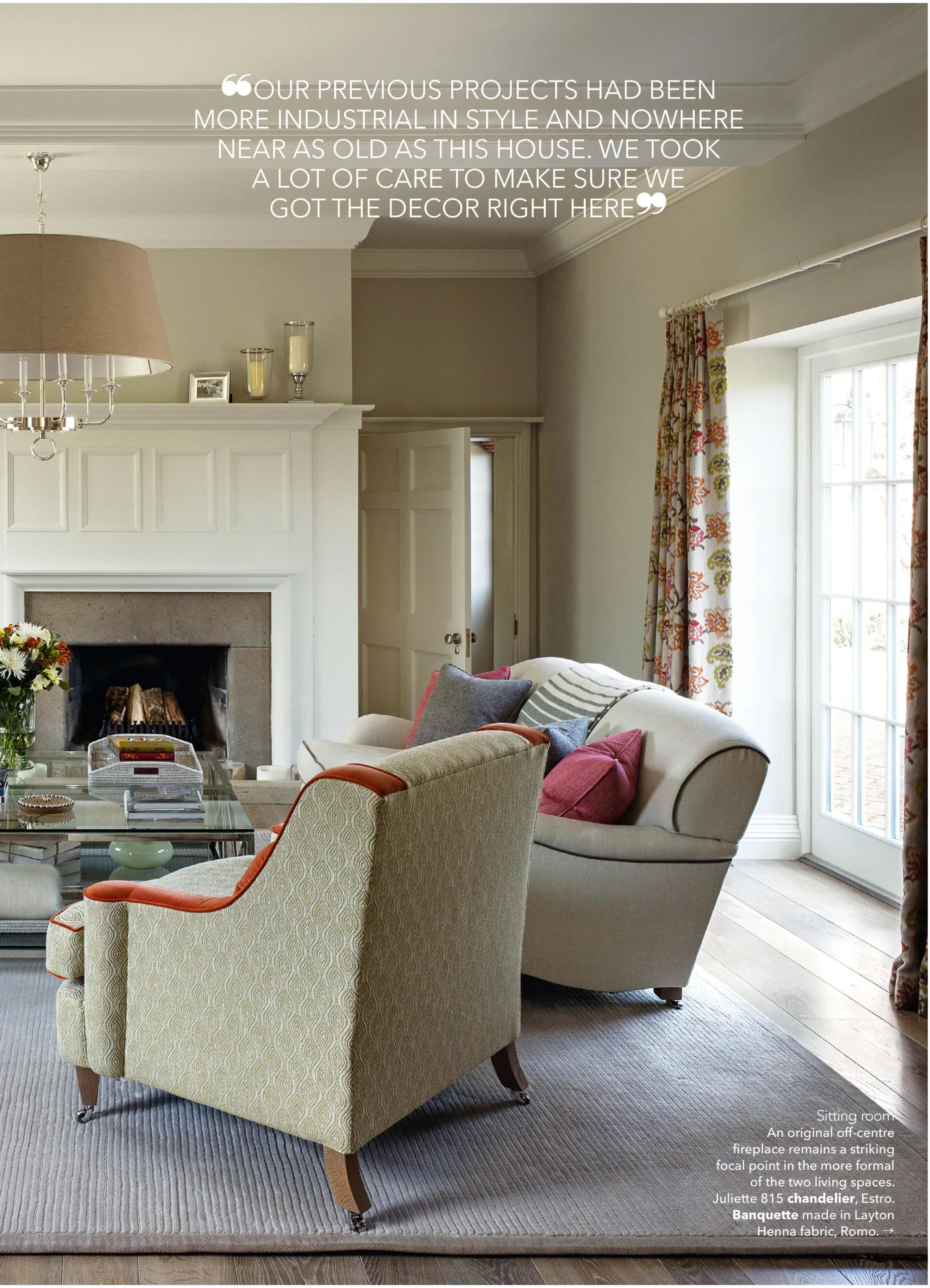
As soon as Stephanie was on board, the couple bought the house and began to plot its interior transformation. 'Our previous projects had been more industrial in style and nowhere near as old as this house, so we wanted help to make sure we got it right,' says Stephanie. 'We love muted tones, neutrals and light blues for understated elegance, and we didn't want anything oppressive. The →

AT HOME WITH...

Owners **Stephanie Thorne and her husband Steve, who is the CEO of a creative company. They live here with Steve's son Connor, 24, as well as identical twins Sienna and Nola, 13. There's also Brodie and Bria, the family's two golden retrievers, Troy the Pyrenean mountain dog, ten hens and a tortoise named Dude. The family moved to the farmhouse three years ago.**

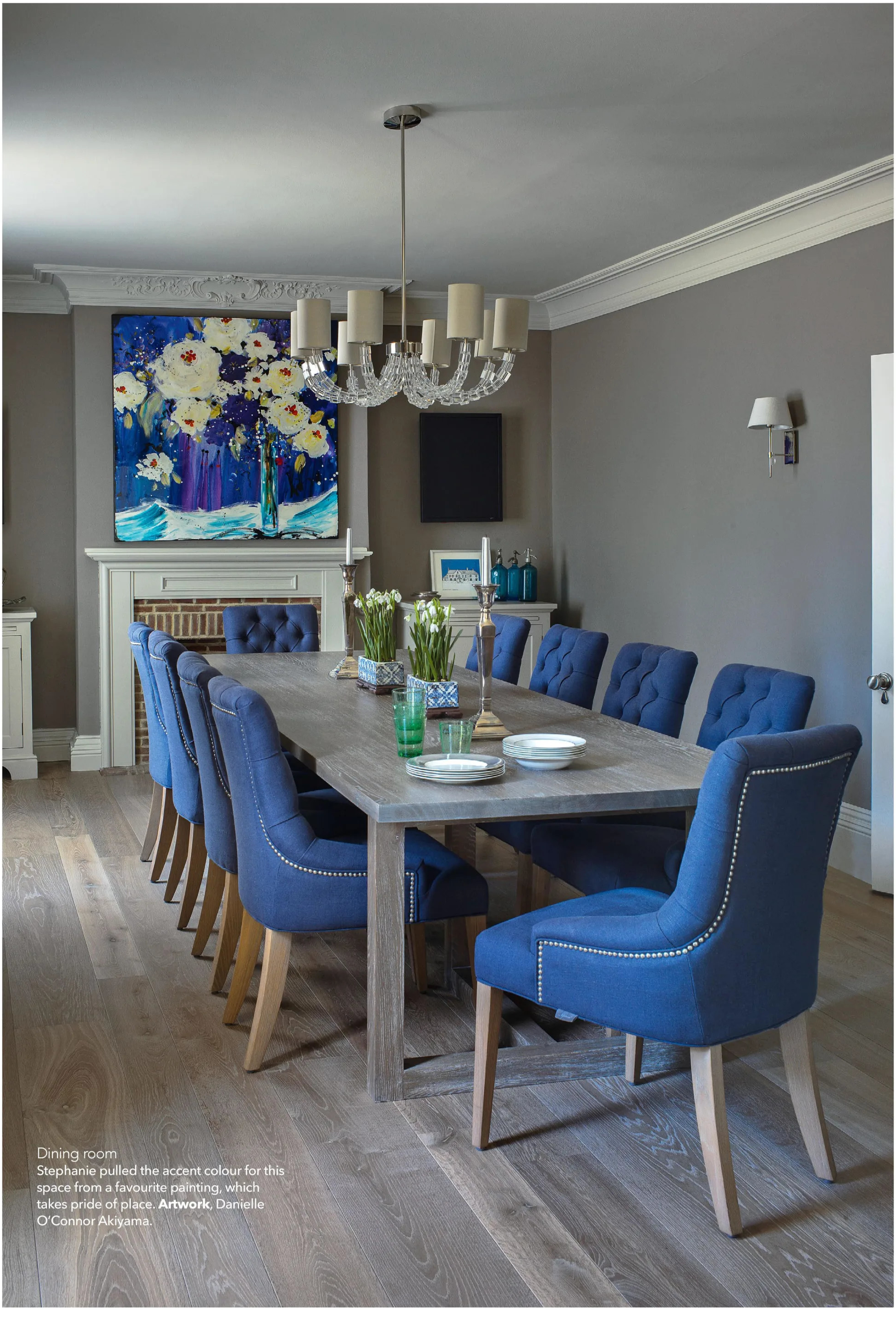
House **A 17th-century farmhouse with eight bedrooms.**

…PHICA TABVLA
KIT KEMP
KIT KEMP



> “OUR PREVIOUS PROJECTS HAD BEEN MORE INDUSTRIAL IN STYLE AND NOWHERE NEAR AS OLD AS THIS HOUSE. WE TOOK A LOT OF CARE TO MAKE SURE WE GOT THE DECOR RIGHT HERE”

Sitting room
An original off-centre fireplace remains a striking focal point in the more formal of the two living spaces. Juliette 815 **chandelier**, Estro. **Banquette** made in Layton Henna fabric, Romo. →



Dining room
Stephanie pulled the accent colour for this space from a favourite painting, which takes pride of place. **Artwork**, Danielle O'Connor Akiyama.

Sitting room
A few personal touches let the couple's style shine. **Lamp** base painted in Radicchio estate eggshell, Farrow & Ball.

Boot room
A dedicated space for cleaning up after muddy dog walks is a luxury Stephanie's so glad she went for. **Units,** Neptune.

interior would have to be light and fresh, with simple, clean lines.' They also wanted some touches of bolder colour and print, inspired by the creations of Kit Kemp and the couple's favourite Crosby Street Hotel in New York. Another strong influence was the Lewis & Wood Adam's Eden wallpaper, which they put in the living room and up the stairs. 'It has blues, light aubergines and a lot going on, which made it hard to put up. In places the pattern had to be cut fastidiously to work on the walls,' says Stephanie.

The house had not been touched for years so the scope of the Thornes' ambitions was extensive. 'The roof needed to be repaired, we rewired, put in new plumbing and then discovered we needed to rebuild chimneys, replace the iron guttering and the downpipes, put in new windows and doors and replaster throughout,' says Steve. They also discovered that the ground floor had been laid straight onto dirt so they had to take it up and excavate 120cm down before installing a new wooden floor. As more layers were stripped back from the house, its secrets began tumbling out to the great delight of Stephanie, a history lover. 'It's my dream just to spend all day rummaging through an old attic looking for treasure,' she says. The house had been well cleared of the previous occupant's belongings, but Stephanie did find old newspapers lining the shelves. 'We read about the →

LIVING THE DREAM

A lover of history, Stephanie has enjoyed delving into the rich past of her own home.

Have you made any unusual finds?

We found an entire tree trunk supporting a wall in the kitchen!

Have you seen photos of the house in the past?

Our neighbour was born here and she has shared some of her family photos with us. We also have one of the house after the 1947 roof fire.

Does the house have any local connections?

It has connections with Canford Manor (now Canford School) in Wimborne, the former home of Lord and Lady Wimborne, as well as the hamlet of Knighton, which is thought to have been a medieval deer park during the reign of King Edward III.

Main bedroom
The couple were inspired by the bold colours and patterns of Kit Kemp's Firmdale Hotels. **Headboard** in Bordeaux in Pivoine, Manuel Canovas. →

Twins' bathroom
Tongue-and-groove panelling creates a truly country house feel. Similar **panelling**, The Victorian Emporium.

Queen when she was young. There were even pages referring to World War II,' she says. The old servant bell system was also recovered, and although it no longer works, the family has installed it in the kitchen as a tribute to its bustling past.

In befriending a neighbour, they gleaned more about their country pile. 'Previously, the roof had been thatched, but a fire destroyed it in 1947,' says Stephanie.

Another of the updates the Thornes made was to extend the kitchen with a two-storey oak frame that includes a boot room and a guest bedroom above. Two long runs of dark grey cabinetry and masses of white quartz worksurfaces meet the needs of the family, as well as creating a relaxed area for entertaining visitors. 'Guests can sit at each island, with the person cooking in between,' says Steve.

This beautiful project could have quelled Steve's addiction to renovation for good. 'I'm always on the lookout for the next project,' he says. 'But I've found myself falling in love with this house more and more. And we have just taken on chickens, so who knows?' &

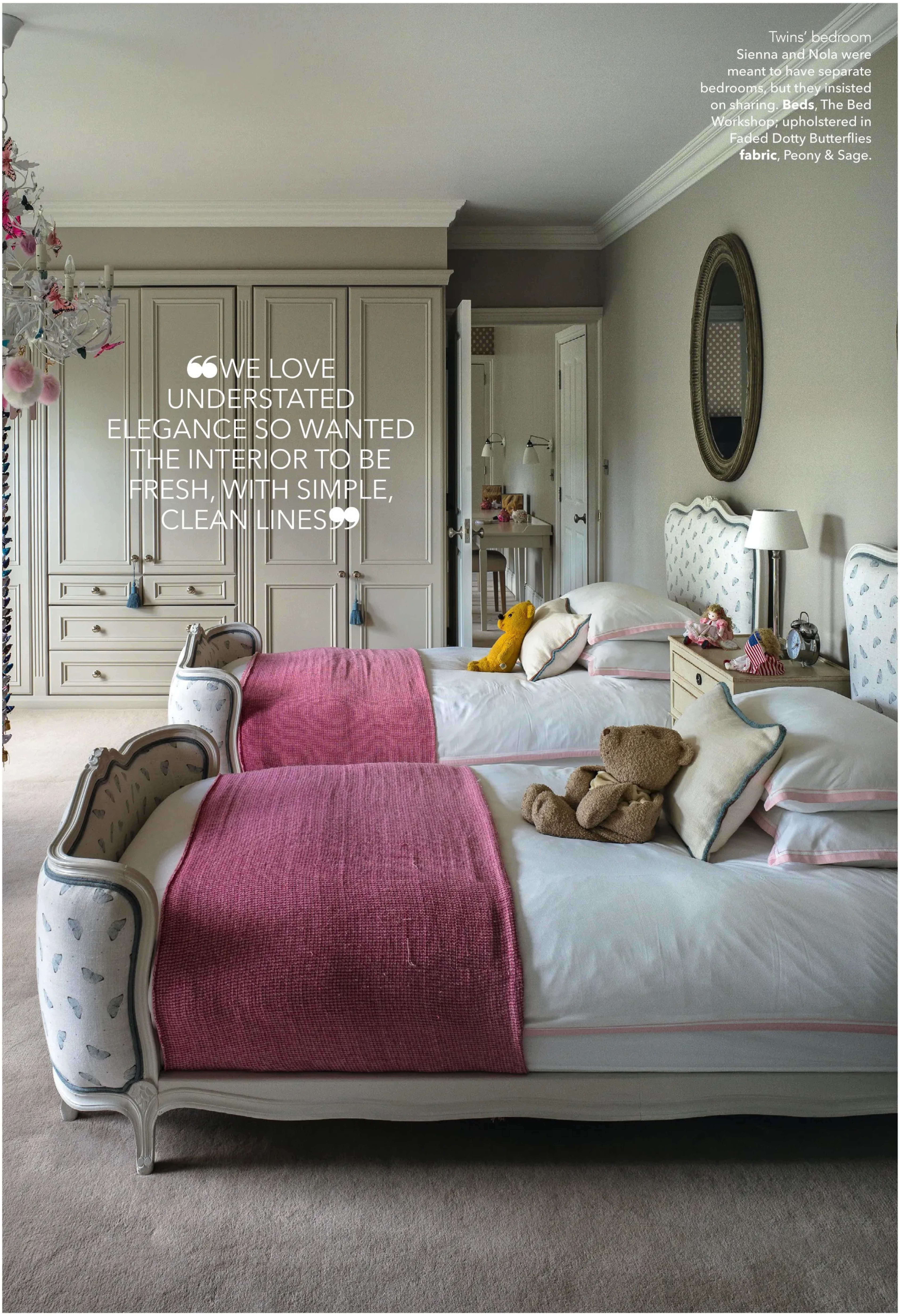
Interiors by simshilditch.com

ON OUR DOORSTEP

Visit… **'We love visiting Kingston Lacy (nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacy), a National Trust-run 17th-century country manor house with an extensive collection of art, Egyptian artefacts and exquisite formal gardens to explore.'**

Shop at… **'Individual Interior Design (individualinteriordesign.co.uk) in Westbourne. It has a wonderful selection of wallpapers, fabrics and furnishings. John Bell (Bell's Fisheries, 01202 884754) is a wonderful fishmonger who knows all of his customers' names, and PJ Keating (pkeatingbutchers.co.uk) is my family butcher, both based in Wimborne.'**

Go for a meal at… **'We adore The Tickled Pig (thetickledpig.co.uk) in Wimborne. The food is delicious and the ingredients come from local Dorset suppliers.'**



Twins' bedroom
Sienna and Nola were meant to have separate bedrooms, but they insisted on sharing. **Beds**, The Bed Workshop; upholstered in Faded Dotty Butterflies **fabric**, Peony & Sage.

“WE LOVE UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE SO WANTED THE INTERIOR TO BE FRESH, WITH SIMPLE, CLEAN LINES”

Family room Housing both the living space and the dining area in this oak-framed room means that the family get to make the most of the glorious views. Similar **dining chairs**, John Lewis & Partners. **Tablecloth**, Susie Watson.

Right place, right time

Finding a home that ticked all the boxes, in the ideal country setting, was a blessing for Lauren and Charlie Richards

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY ELTES

BEWARE OF THE DOG
THE OLD FARM HOUS

Kitchen Lauren has brought a country kitchen up to date with copper accessories. Similar **pendants**, Wayfair.

The first time Lauren and Charlie Richards saw the details for this 17th-century Herefordshire farmhouse, it was a three-storey pile of potential in the perfect location. But even with all those plus factors, the rundown renovation project was too big a challenge for the couple to take on at the time. Fast forward 12 years, and not only are they now happily ensconced in the beautifully restored property, they've even added a stunning oak-framed extension to create a family space for them and their three daughters.

'It first came on the market when we were trying to sell the barn conversion we lived in at the time, but we didn't even view it as we knew it needed a lot of work,' says Lauren. 'We moved into a rented place after our sale went through and continued looking for a family home, then the farmhouse came back on to the market. It had been bought and renovated in the meantime, but the new owners' circumstances had changed, so it became available at just the right time for us.'

The idyllic location, surrounded by rolling hills in the West Marches, was perfect for Lauren and Charlie when they moved here from London and the northwest respectively after getting married in 2005. Charlie grew up in the area and Lauren's parents live an hour and a half away. 'I was brought up in a town, so the view here →

AT HOME WITH...

Owners Lauren Richards, co-founder of make-up artistry business LC Make Up (lcmakeup.co.uk) and her husband Charlie, an MD. They live here with their three children, Alice, Evelyn, and Beatrice, plus their two dogs, Betsy, a German Shepherd/Labrador cross, and terrier Maggie. They moved here in 2009.

House A Grade II listed farmhouse built in 1680 with six bedrooms.

Dining area Lauren paired a built-in bench with straw seat dining chairs for an informal, rustic look. Similar **wall lights**, Jim Lawrence. Similar **bowls**, Anthropologie.

Kitchen The couple kept the Shaker-style cabinets, updating them with a lick of paint. **Units** painted in Vert de Terre by Farrow & Ball.

Kitchen An open-plan layout means the old part flows seamlessly into the extension. **Rug**, Graham and Green.

never bores me,' says Lauren. The house is also close to a market town, which is important for her as Charlie is away a lot with work. 'I wanted to have neighbours nearby so I didn't feel isolated,' says Lauren.

'I loved the history and character of the farmhouse. It looked like a doll's house with the door in the middle at the front, plus all the rooms were a good size. It also had a lovely new kitchen. It was a bit of a stretch for us but we're so glad we took the risk.'

As a lot of work had already been done to the house during the previous sale, Lauren and Charlie went in with a relatively light touch. 'We repointed the front, installed a bathroom on the top floor and added a woodburner to the dining room,' says Lauren. 'We then redecorated throughout to freshen up the rooms but didn't change the colour scheme at all as it was exactly how I would have done it.'

But as time went on, the couple began to feel one thing was missing – a family space that would truly bring the house to life. 'I loved the idea of an open-plan kitchen/entertaining space overlooking the garden,' says Lauren. 'We thought it would finish off the house.' So the decision was made to add an extension. 'Merry Albright, the creative director of Border Oak, is a good friend of mine,' says Lauren, 'and we thought an oak-framed extension →

LIVING THE DREAM

For Lauren Richards, living in the countryside but close to a market town is the best of both worlds.

What's the best thing about living close to Ludlow? **'I don't feel isolated when my husband is working away. Everyone knows everyone here – there's a real sense of community.'**

What's at the heart of local life? **'The daily market, which is supported extremely well. And the local theatre and cinema.'**

Any tips for making local friends? **'With small children, making friends came easy. But for those who don't have children there are many groups and clubs to get involved in. Joining in is the best way to meet people.'**

Family room Pops of soft pinks and a geometric rug bring a modern touch to this traditional-style, oak-framed extension. **Sofa**; **footstool**, both Sofa.com. Similar **rug**, Wayfair.

Living room Lauren has added interest to a neutral palette with subtly patterned cushions and an eye-catching rug. **Cushions** and **rug,** all Oka.

would look really lovely with the stone.' Planning permission was granted and work began in December 2016, with the Border Oak frame going up in August and joiner and builder James Mackenzie completing the carpentry, flooring and roof.

The extension has made a huge difference to family life. 'We love that it has such large windows so it's really light. It's great all year round, but especially fabulous in the summertime when we can keep the doors open on to the garden,' says Lauren. 'We love having friends over, too – it's a great entertaining space.'

Lauren wanted the family room to have a fresh and simple interior and has used her favourite palette of pinks and greys, along with some subtle patterns and prints, to create an eclectic feel. 'I like to mix traditional with modern and love a mix of old and new,' she says.

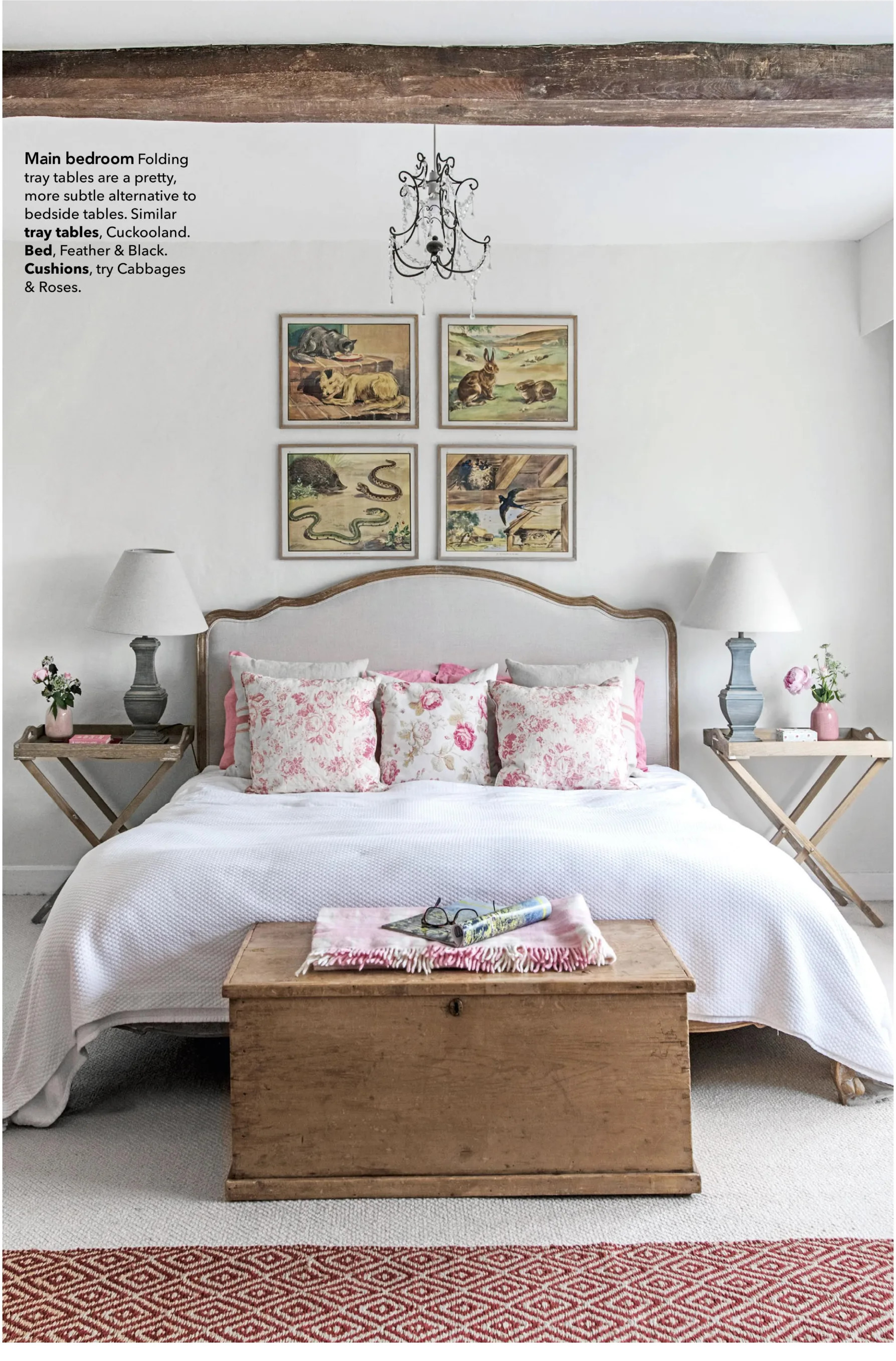
'The house works for us because, as well as all the extra room the extension has brought us, there's space on the top floor for friends and family to stay the night,' says Lauren. 'We think this is our forever home. It sounds corny, but the lady we bought it from said she could see one of our daughters getting married on the lawn here one day. She may well be right!'

Exterior The Grade II listed, six bedroomed farmhouse dates from the 17th century and has a modern extension.

> “WE KNEW AN OPEN-PLAN SPACE OVERLOOKING THE GARDEN WOULD FINISH OFF THE HOUSE”

Bathroom Rather than a regular towel rail, Lauren chose to keep it rustic with a ladder. Similar **towel ladder**, Wayfair. →

Main bedroom Folding tray tables are a pretty, more subtle alternative to bedside tables. Similar **tray tables**, Cuckooland. **Bed**, Feather & Black. **Cushions**, try Cabbages & Roses.



ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit...'Croft Castle (01568 780246, nationaltrust.org.uk/croft-castle-and-parklandnationaltrust) in Yarpole. It dates from the 14th and 15th centuries and is surrounded by 1,500 acres of beautiful woodland, farms and parkland.'

Shop at... 'Quarry Farm Shop (01568 613156, quarryfarmshop.co.uk) in Luston for a wide range of meat reared either on the family farm or sourced from a few carefully selected local family farms.'

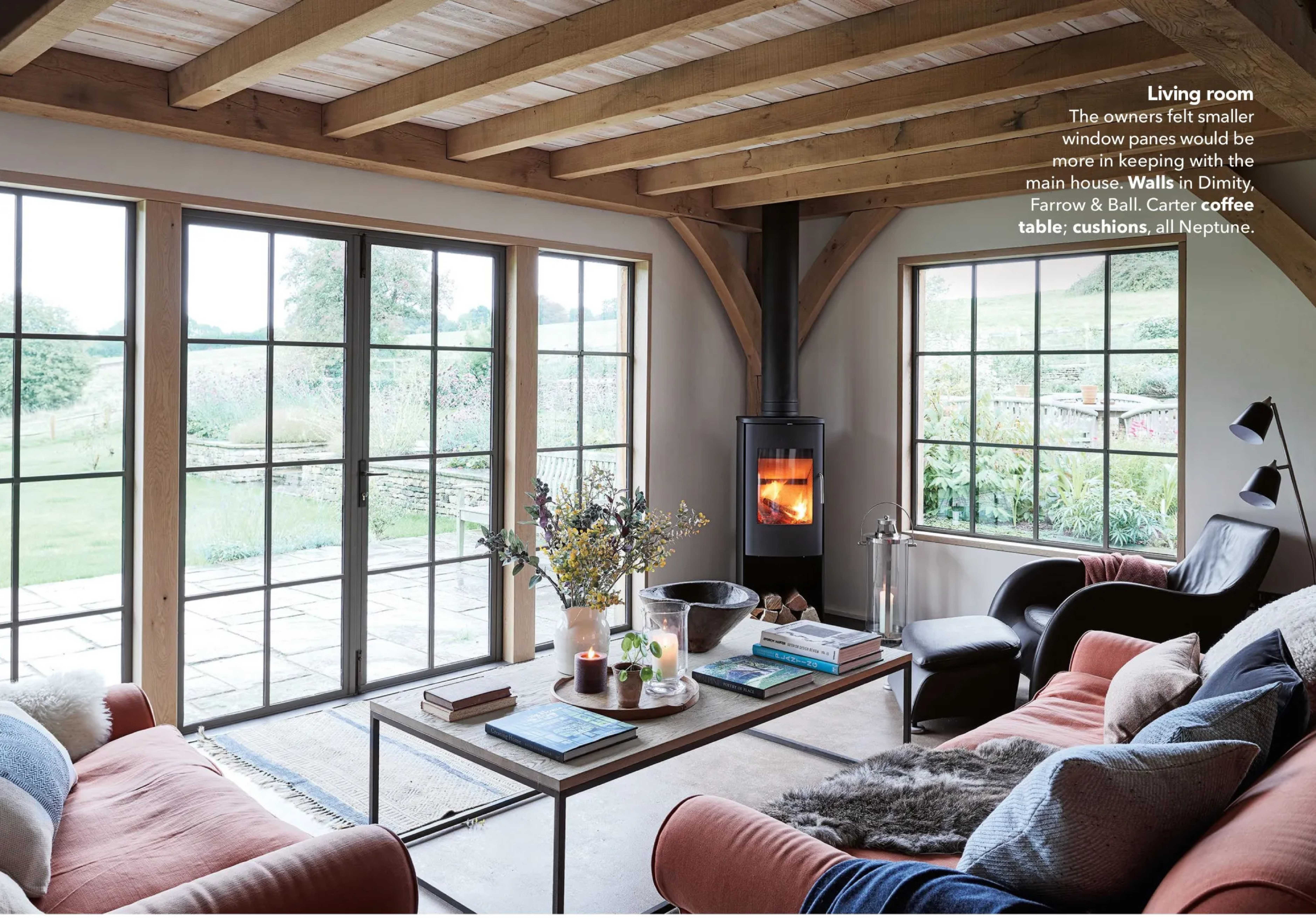
Go for a meal at... 'The Riverside Inn at Aymestrey (01568 708440, riversideaymestrey.co.uk) is an atmospheric 16th-century black and white building in the River Lugg valley. It serves delicious food made from fruit and vegetables grown in their kitchen garden.'

Simple pleasure

Having renovated their cottage, the owners built an adjoining barn for family and friends to stay in, decorating it with a stylish Scandi feel

FEATURE JULIET BENNING **PHOTOGRAPHY** ADAM CARTER

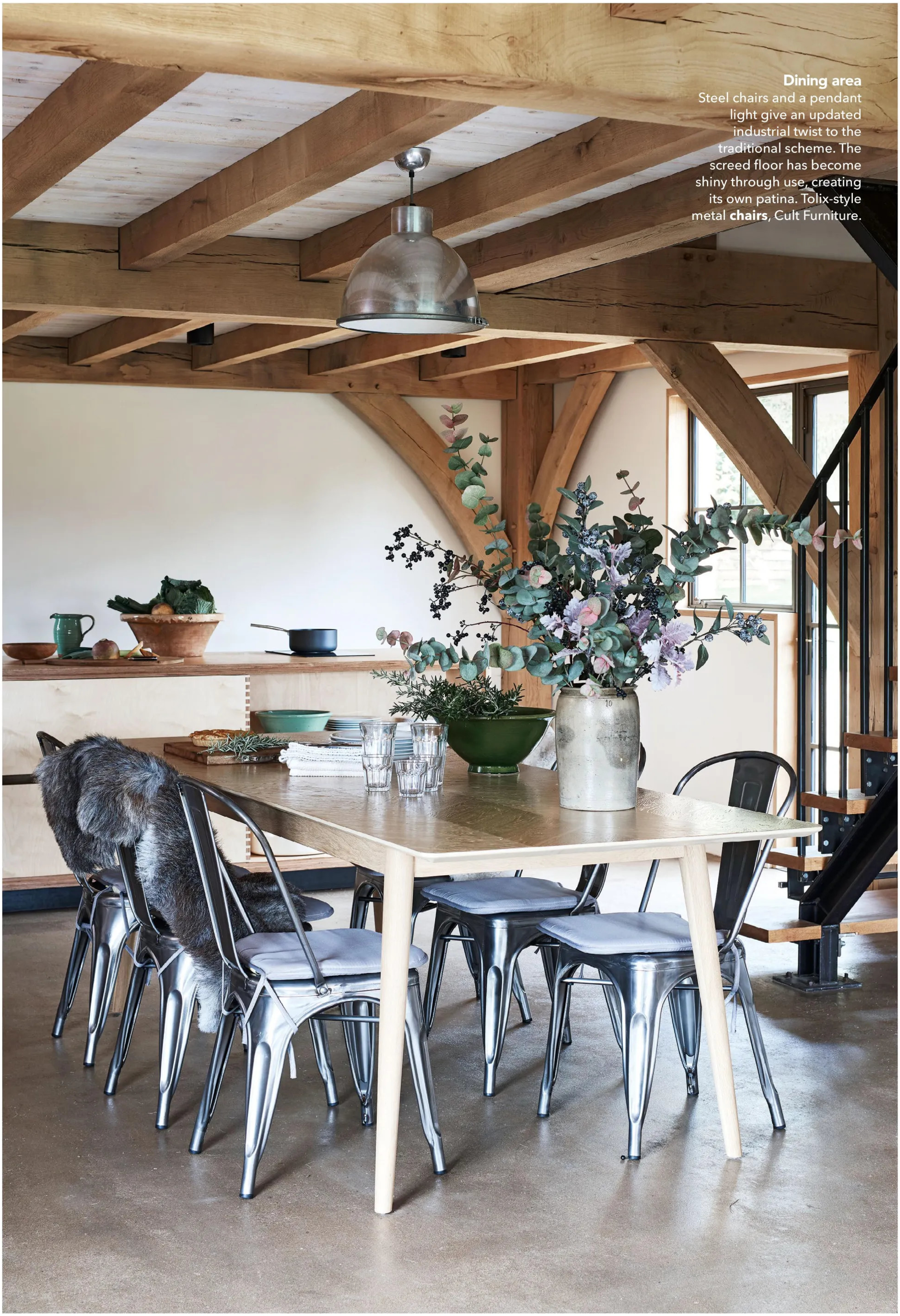
Exterior This restored English country garden is in bloom from February until November. **Barn architecture**, Mackenzie Wheeler. **Barn constructed** by English Oak Buildings. →



Living room
The owners felt smaller window panes would be more in keeping with the main house. **Walls** in Dimity, Farrow & Ball. Carter **coffee table**; **cushions**, all Neptune.

The owners of this stunning property are known in their circle of friends as fantastic hosts. Cooking and entertaining comes naturally to this couple. In 2010, the couple, who had enjoyed many weekends in the countryside around Bath, moved permanently to a cottage in a Wiltshire village. After renovating the cottage, building the new barn extension was the game changer that allowed them to cater for all their friends and extended family who come to visit.

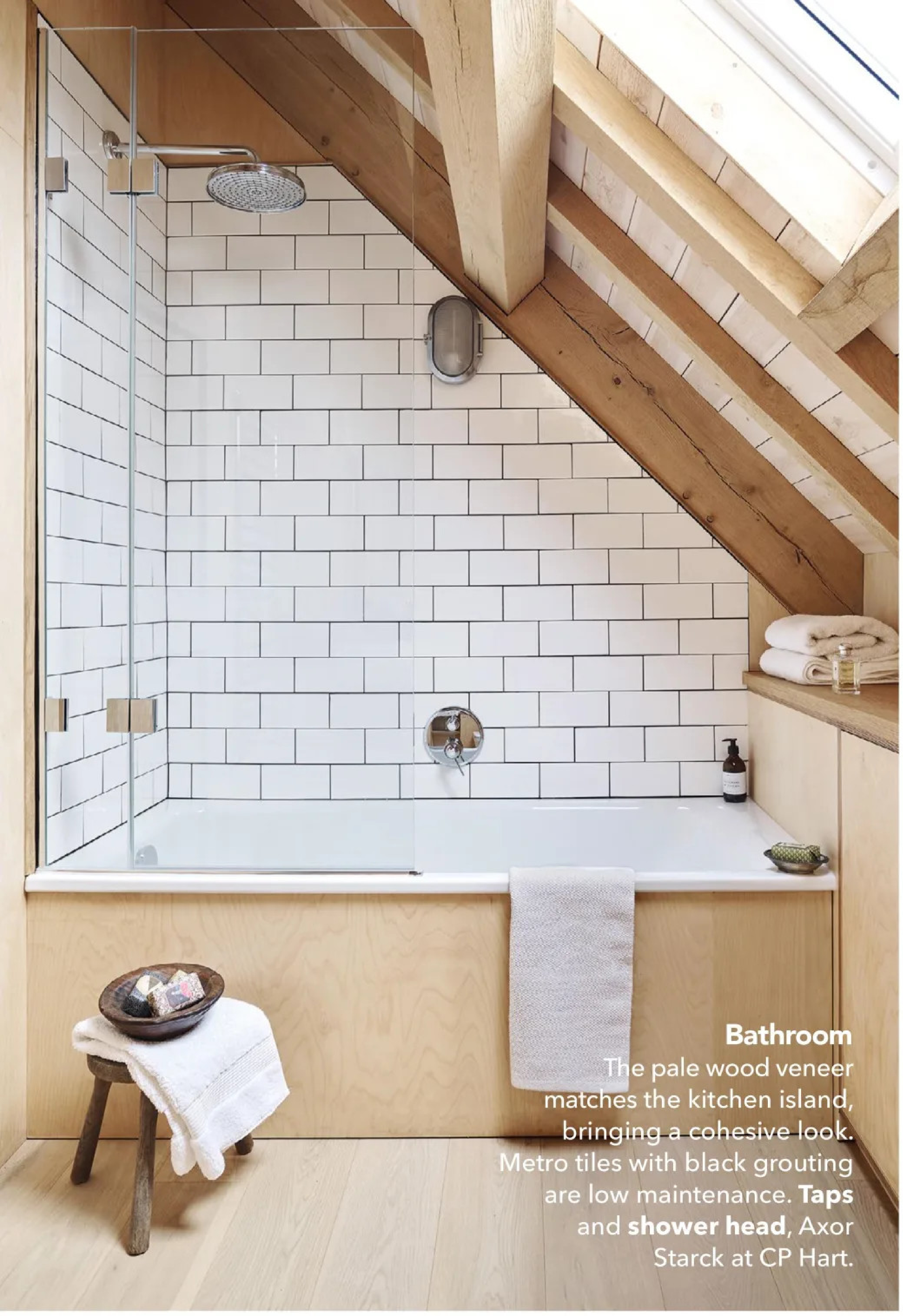
The barn replaces some old stables and is connected to the kitchen in the cottage via a brick-built corridor that has become a walk-through pantry with wine fridges and a bar. 'Renovating the house took up all of our budget so we put the barn on hold and completed it just two years ago,' say the owners. 'We used the same architect as for the house, Mackenzie Wheeler, and had already been granted planning permission with the renovation of the cottage. The intention was that it would be more of a self-contained unit family members could use when they came to stay. We also wanted it to be a living space we could use for entertaining. When people are staying we can close the door and leave them to it, and when it's just us, we tend to spread into the barn, using it every day.' →



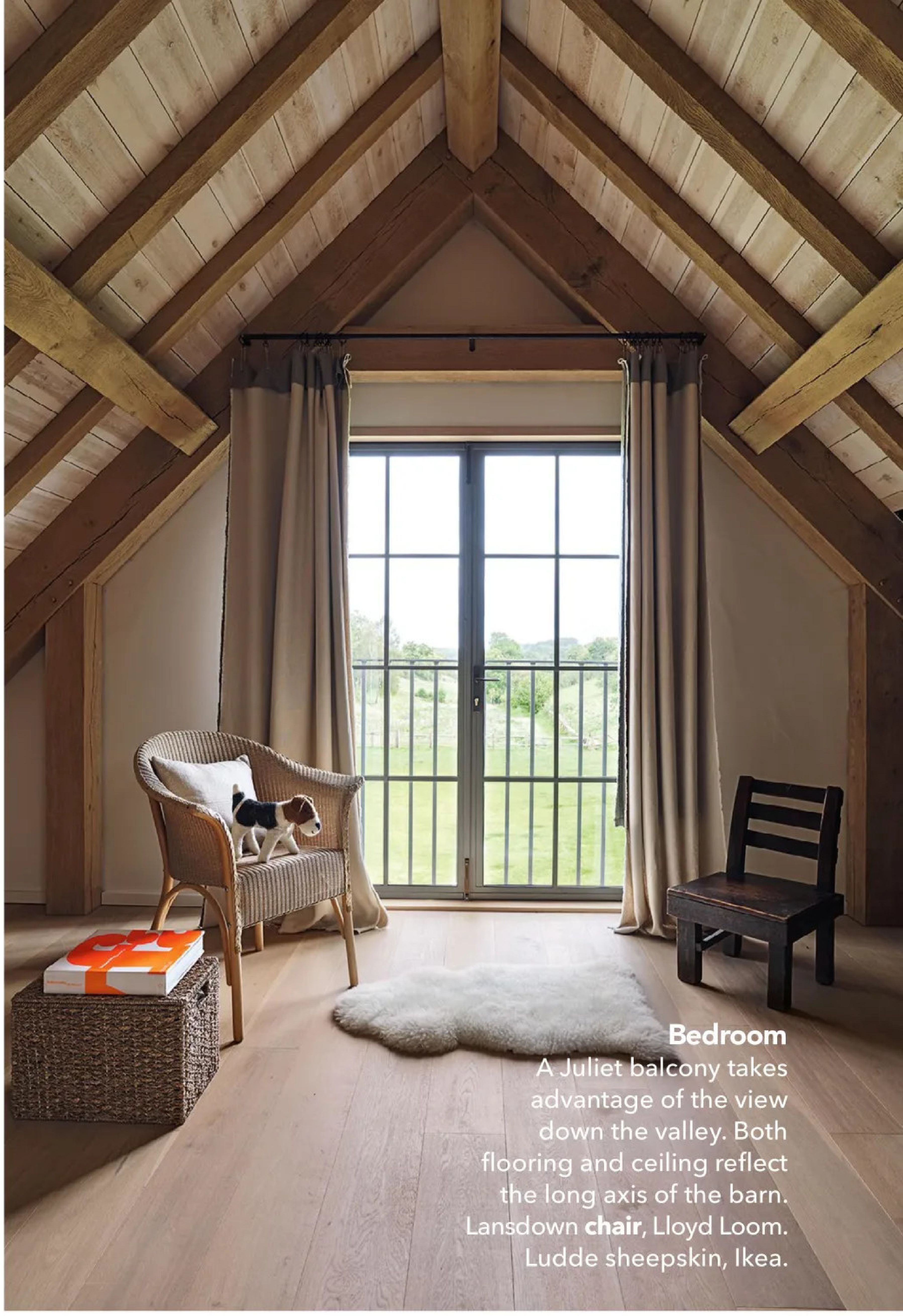
Dining area
Steel chairs and a pendant light give an updated industrial twist to the traditional scheme. The screed floor has become shiny through use, creating its own patina. Tolix-style metal **chairs**, Cult Furniture.

> “WE DIDN’T CONDITION THE OAK, SO IT HAS TAKEN ON AN AGED, SILVERED LOOK THAT RESEMBLES THE FARM BUILDINGS IT REPLACED”

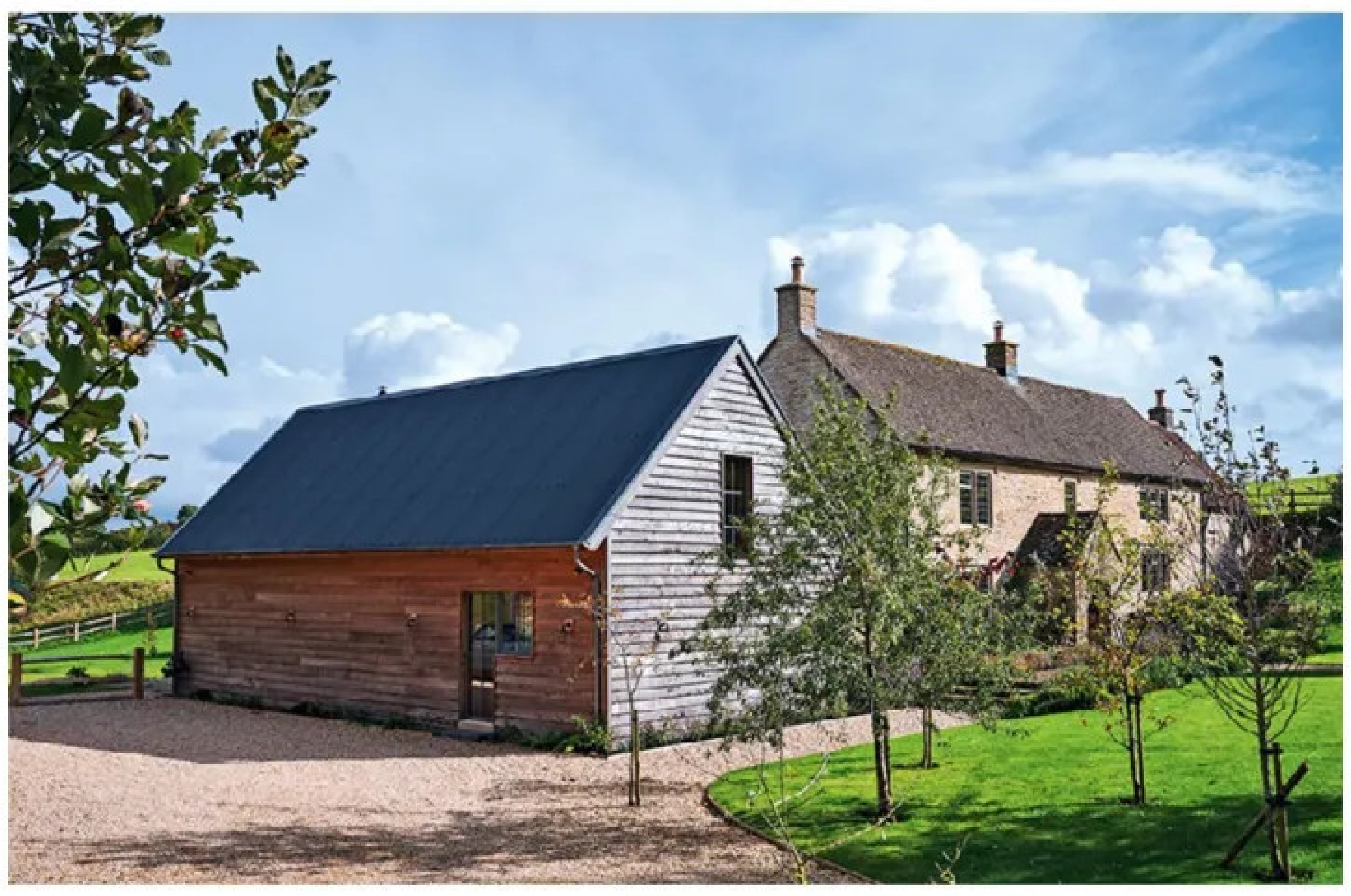
Dining area The lightweight construction of the steel staircase ensures there is a free-flowing openness to the space. **Table**, Carl Hansen & Son at Nest. **Console table**, Habitat. →



Bathroom
The pale wood veneer matches the kitchen island, bringing a cohesive look. Metro tiles with black grouting are low maintenance. **Taps** and **shower head**, Axor Starck at CP Hart.



Bedroom
A Juliet balcony takes advantage of the view down the valley. Both flooring and ceiling reflect the long axis of the barn. Lansdown **chair**, Lloyd Loom. Ludde sheepskin, Ikea.



Exterior
The front garden was previously all gravel but the new owners laid a lawn and have planted fruit trees.

The barn took about a year to build and watching it develop was quite exciting. 'The framework was erected first, so for a long time we had the oak structure and then the wood surround was added afterwards,' say the owners. The build was not without its complications. 'We had issues with the drainage and had to dig up the garden. For the underfloor heating, we had to run the cables through the garden, but we didn't dig the trenches deep enough so had to dig up the garden yet another time, which was pretty stressful. We were in a rush as we wanted to get the barn built in time for Christmas,' the owners explain. A week before the family were due to arrive the barn was finished.

'There was a point where it was starting to cost as much as the house had cost and it seemed ridiculous. But seeing it all come to life at Christmas was just wonderful. All the fires were lit and we had a big Christmas tree with lots of children running around. We had Christmas lunch in the barn cooking for 12, then on Boxing Day we put together two trestle tables and had 25 for lunch. Three days later more family came to stay and we did the whole thing again.'

The English oak frame gives the barn much of its charm, with two bedrooms tucked into the rafters. 'We wanted →

Bedroom
The owners combined crisp white sheets and woven throws with cushions in fleece and velvet for textural detail. **Bed linen**, The White Company.

> “THE WHOLE LOOK AND FEEL IS SLIGHTLY SCANDI, WHICH IS OUR PREFERRED INTERIOR STYLE”

Bedroom
Both guest rooms have benches at the foot of the bed, convenient for dressing. Minimal furnishings keep the mood relaxed and laid back. Reclaimed **bench**, Nkuku.

to keep the bedrooms simple and clean, with a hotel-like feel. We added texture with sheepskin rugs and made the beds cosy with plenty of cushions. In the larger bedroom, you can watch the Moon setting through the skylight.'

The downstairs is one large room containing a dining and kitchen area and, slightly stepped down, the sitting area, featuring deep sofas, a log burner and far-reaching views of the valley. 'The whole look and feel is slightly Scandinavian, which is our preferred interior style. The first time the family came to stay we had only a few pieces of essential furniture, and we've added more pieces over time. We haven't yet hung any art, but I'm planning to put an art shelf up above the kitchen island so that we can change the pictures on display every so often.'

Being surrounded by so many trees makes autumn at home a seasonal highlight. 'The changing colour of the leaves down in the valley is sensational. There are so many beautiful woodland walks around here and it's wonderful to come back to roaring fires. It's also lovely to walk through the village when the brook is at its peak and really rushing by.' As settled country dwellers, the family will be welcoming their city friends to their bolthole for many more dinners to come.

Into the blue

The colours of the Devonshire coastline provided inspiration for Felicity Thomson's spacious barn conversion

FEATURE JO LEEVERS **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY ELTES

Kitchen-diner
The blue of the cabinets echoes the shades of the nearby estuary and sea. For a similar **kitchen**, try Herringbone Kitchens. **Pendants**, Nkuku. **Artwork**, Victoria Young Jamieson. →

Kitchen
Open wall cabinets and plate racks give the space a homely, country cottage feel. Similar **plate rack**, Furniture 4 Your Home.

Felicity Thomson, who lives on a farm near Salcombe in Devon, says May is her favourite time of year. 'Early spring is when our foals are born and it's also when the countryside starts to come into its own,' she says. 'Wildflowers begin to bloom and the long, sandy beaches are at their most beautiful.'

Felicity, her husband Charles and their children, Freya and Freddie, moved to this part of the world 22 years ago from Kent, but already knew the area well. 'We had a holiday home down here, which meant we'd already built up a good circle of friends,' she says. It still took a while to find their perfect home, which is a Grade II listed 18th-century farmhouse with several outbuildings.

The couple wanted a completely fresh start from their busy commuting-based lifestyles. Charles gave up working for his family engineering business and instead the couple focused on creating a different way of life on the farm. The Thomsons now breed Dartmoor ponies, which have won prizes at the Horse of the Year Show and the Royal International Horse Show.

Five years ago, they decided to make another new beginning – converting a large barn on the farm into this warm, welcoming home. The building is on two levels, and a previous owner, who was in the music →

AT HOME WITH

Owners Felicity and Charles Thomson, who run a Dartmoor pony stud farm and a holiday let business from Salcombe Farm (salcombefarm.co.uk), live here with their daughter Freya, son Freddie, Ludo the whippet and Jagger the cairn terrier. They moved here 22 years ago.

House A larch-clad converted barn dating from the 20th century.

> “IT’S A REAL LUXURY TO HAVE A LARGE OPEN-PLAN SPACE, BUT YOU NEED TO CREATE MORE INTIMATE POCKETS OF SEATING WITHIN IT”

Dining area
Having a long bench against the wall means the table area takes up less floor space. Similar **table**, Live With Wood.

Living room
A high-backed sofa helps to 'zone' the seating area in the open-plan space. Similar **sofas**, John Lewis & Partners.

business, had used part of the top portion as a recording studio. 'Robert Plant, the Levellers and Alannah Myles recorded here,' says Felicity. The lower level, however, had been used for hay storage.

'We thought the barn was beautiful as soon as we saw it. We wanted to preserve it but also bring it into the 21st century,' says Felicity. Once they had planning permission, an architect was brought in to help them create a traditional home with contemporary touches.

For the interior, Felicity found inspiration in the countryside and coastal scenery on their doorstep. So the kitchen is painted in a restful blue, while a mossy green paint shade has been used in several bedrooms. As a backdrop for much of their art, furniture and finds, Felicity chose Ammonite, a pale grey paint shade by Farrow & Ball. 'I've discovered that the key to creating cosiness is to avoid stark white walls,' she says.

In the kitchen, an island divides the working areas from the dining area. 'In the daytime, this part of the room is flooded with natural sunlight. Then, after dark, the pendants cast it in a pool of warm light, which makes it really cosy.' The table itself is made in local elm by a Devonshire craftsman, while other furniture is predominantly made in pale mango wood and comes from Scumble Goosie. 'Whether it's been →

LIVING THE DREAM

Felicity and her family successfully breed Dartmoor ponies on their Devonshire farm.

What makes Dartmoor ponies special?

'They have such wonderful temperaments. Ensuring the future of this endangered breed has become a passion for us all.'

How do you choose potential owners for your ponies?

'We get to know them personally because we want to be sure they will love our ponies as much as we do.'

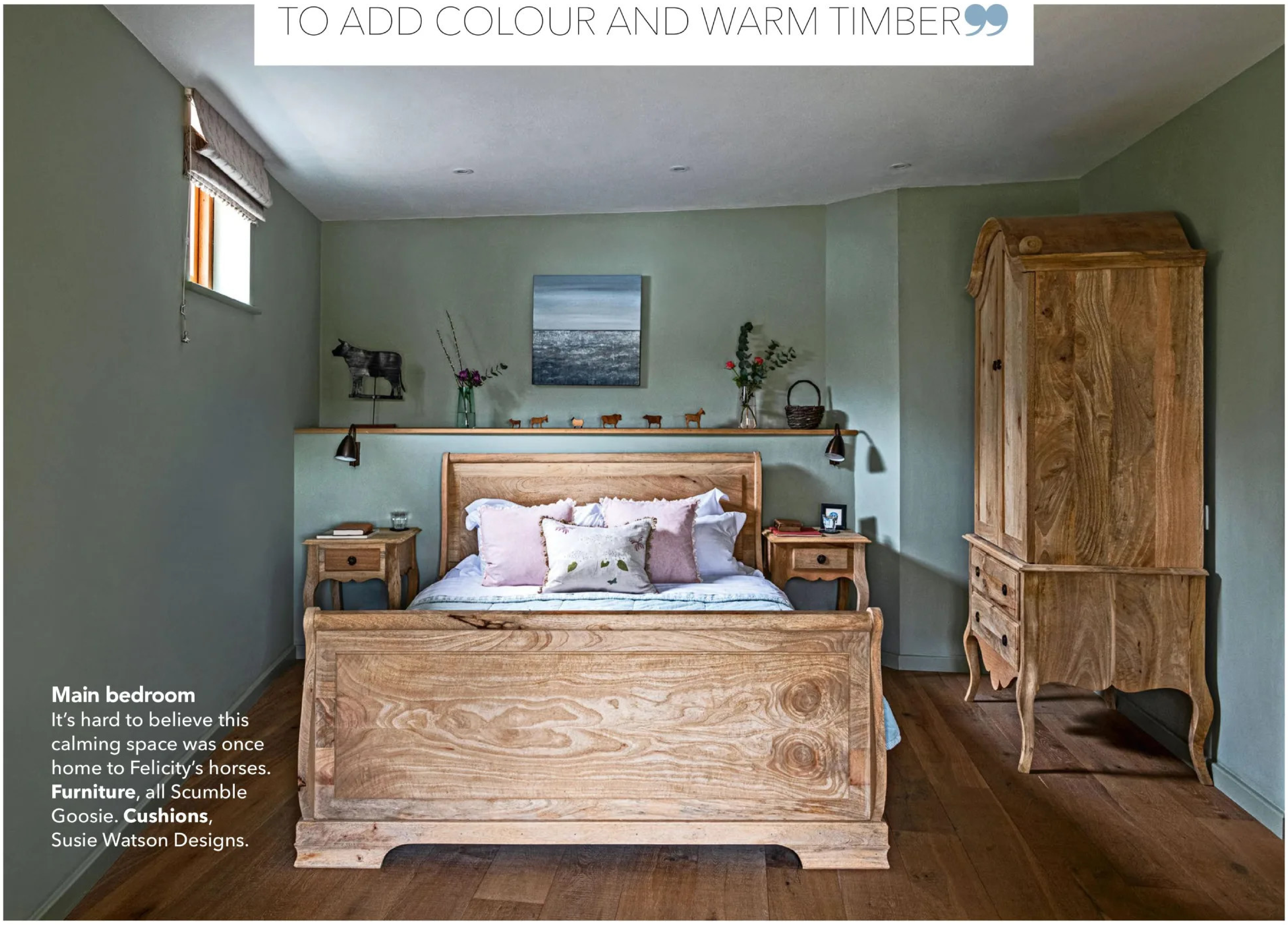
What's your proudest moment so far?

'When our ponies won the Royal International Horse Show and scooped second place at the Horse of the Year Show.'

Children's bedroom
Bunk beds make a snug hideaway for visiting little ones. For similar **bunk beds**, try Indigo Furniture.

Children's bedroom
Felicity has chosen decor in keeping with the rest of the home for a streamlined look. **Mirror**, Scumble Goosie.

> “I'VE DISCOVERED THAT THE KEY TO CREATING A COSY DECOR SCHEME IS TO ADD COLOUR AND WARM TIMBER”



Main bedroom
It's hard to believe this calming space was once home to Felicity's horses. **Furniture**, all Scumble Goosie. **Cushions**, Susie Watson Designs.

Bathroom Floor-to-ceiling earthy tones stop the tiled bathroom from feeling stark. Floor **tiles**, Mandarin Stone.

Bathroom The rugged stone basin adds an extra layer of texture. Similar **basin**, Marblemosaics.

made a few miles away or by artisan makers and craftspeople in Rajasthan, timber furniture always has warmth and character,' says Felicity. To bring a sense of softness to the large spaces, Felicity turned to Susie Watson Designs and chose textiles in pastel shades, many adorned with simple block-print motifs.

The generous windows in the living area overlook the verdant, rolling countryside. 'We were going to have shutters to make the most of the views, but then I realised it might make the space quite echoey,' says Felicity. Instead, lined and patterned linen curtains hang at all the windows, adding softness and linking with the cushions that are generously layered over each of the beds, sofas and benches.

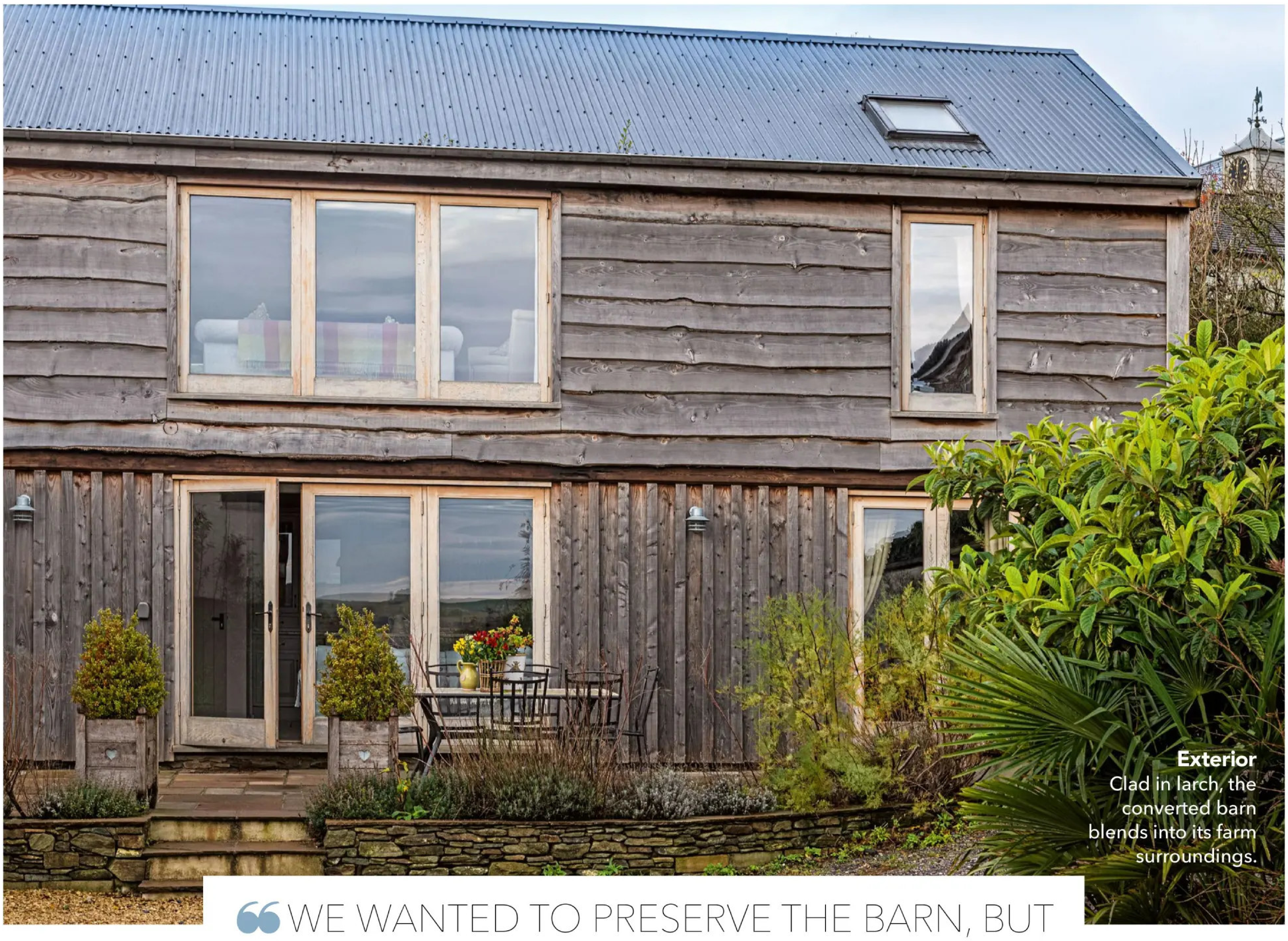
Now finished, the barn is available for holiday rentals (it can sleep up to 18) and the business is very much a family affair, with daughter Freya running the bookings when she's not helping to look after the equine side of the farm. 'Freya studied estate management and worked abroad for a while, but once you've lived in this beautiful part of the world, you find yourself drawn back here. It has cast its spell on all of us,' says Felicity.

ON MY DOORSTEP

Visit ... **'From April until the end of October you can take the passenger ferry to the golden South Sands beach, which is also at the start of the spectacular South West Coast Path.'**

Shop at ... **'The Bake House (bakehousesalcombe.co.uk) in Salcombe is our lovely local artisan bakery. Don't leave without trying their almond croissants.'**

Go for a meal at ... **'The Beach House (beachhousedevon.com) in Kingsbridge is great to head to after a long beach walk. Captain Flint's (captainflints.co.uk) in Salcombe is a popular place for families to refuel as it has a *Treasure Island* theme.'**



Exterior
Clad in larch, the converted barn blends into its farm surroundings.

> “WE WANTED TO PRESERVE THE BARN, BUT ALSO BRING IT INTO THE 21ST CENTURY”

Beside the sea

Having been reconfigured by designer Sophie Ashby, this Sussex beachside retreat is lighter, more open and, most important, now feels connected to its seaside setting

WORDS SERENA FOKSCHANER **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRENT DARBY **STYLING** ALICE RIDLEY

LIVING AREA
New glass screens have helped to open up the ground floor space and allow for views through to the garden. Antique **armchairs** covered in Soie de Lune fabric. →

STUDY AREA
Owner Jamie's study was integrated into the living room, reflecting the convivial feel of the house.
Blue and white vessel by Silvia K Ceramics, The New Craftsmen.

SUN ROOM Previously a conservatory, this area now flows into the rest of the living space. **Coffee table,** Gubi.

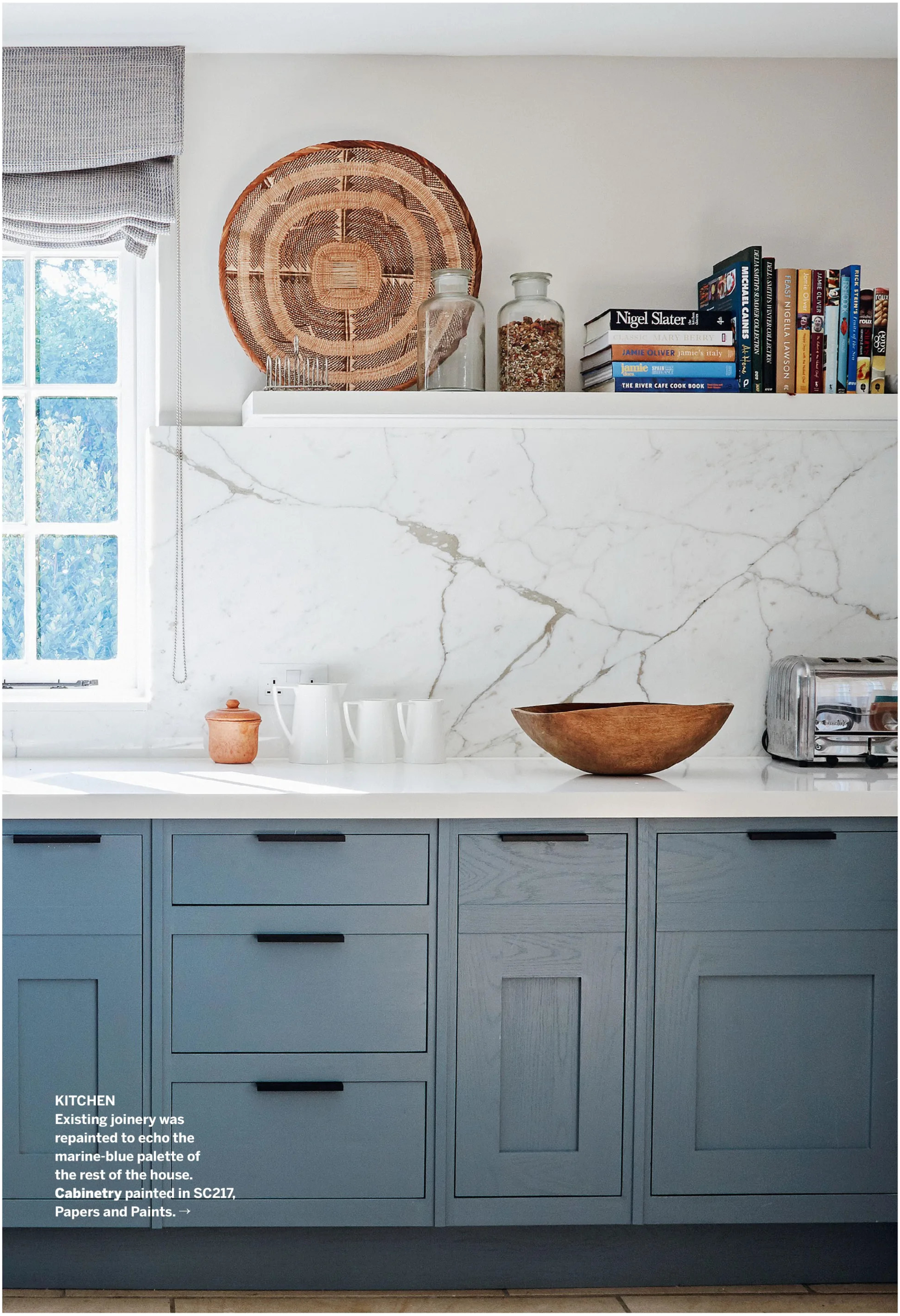
DINING AREA Custom shelving with integrated LED lighting punctuates this reconfigured space. **Bespoke cabinet and table,** Studio Ashby.

It would be easy to miss Jamie Young's house. It is a low, white slab 1930s cottage set modestly at the end of a meandering track. The interior, too, won't make you stop and stare. But that's precisely the point of this seaside home, which, thanks to a skilful overhaul by Sophie Ashby of Studio Ashby, feels as calm as a schooner on a millpond-smooth sea; an inviting, maritime retreat of azure, indigo and cerulean blues where deep sofas beckon and light floods through wide windows.

Lured by the beachfront location, Jamie, who was 'brought up on boats,' bought the former gardener's cottage in 1990. 'Since then, I've extended it as funds allowed, in a piecemeal fashion. But the way we live has changed,' says Jamie, who runs an investment fund. 'This is a very sociable house and I wanted more open spaces, so it was time for a major reconfiguration.' At which point Jamie turned to Sophie. The pair have collaborated before after he spotted her work in a London showhome, and they have formed an empathetic partnership. 'Sophie quickly understood my style; we're on the same wavelength,' says Jamie.

Armed with tape measure and notebook, Sophie strode in and immediately spotted the property's key flaw: 'Instead of looking onto the gardens, the focal point of the living room was the fireplace,' she says. →

BREAKFAST AREA A new table, made from resin and inlaid with Jesmonite, was designed to suit the space and contrast with the other bespoke tables. Surya light, Ochre.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FEAST NIGELLA LAWSON
JAMIE OLIVER
RICK STEIN'S

KITCHEN
Existing joinery was repainted to echo the marine-blue palette of the rest of the house. **Cabinetry** painted in SC217, Papers and Paints. →

CLOAKROOM
On the ground floor, a bathroom was removed to allow for a large hallway, as well as this compact space. Soap dispenser, CP Hart. **Wallpaper**, similar from Cole & Son.

GUEST BEDROOM
Built-in joinery has been updated in new colours and overhead lighting swapped for the gentler glow of low-level lamps. Scorpion **lamp**, Ochre.

That early discussion led to a raft of changes that have transformed the two-storey interior from a series of smaller, introverted rooms into a flowing space. The changes are most apparent downstairs, where a bathroom was jettisoned to create the wide, welcoming hallway. Instead of solid walls, glazed screens have brought light to the living areas and new windows open onto the half-moon-shaped lawn: 'The house now feels connected to the outside,' says Jamie.

Another part of Sophie's brief was, she says, to make the Sussex house 'more considered and inviting'. Now you can drift, Martini in hand, from living room to informal dining room, where open shelving, bright with glass and ceramics, creates a vivid division between spaces. In the kitchen, where the cabinetry was updated in soft blues offset by a marble splashback, a sociably round table, studded with Jesmonite, is positioned for views of the garden. Even Jamie's desk, once squirrelled away in a separate room, has joined the convivial throng in a mini office, framed by asymmetrical shelving, in a corner of the living room.

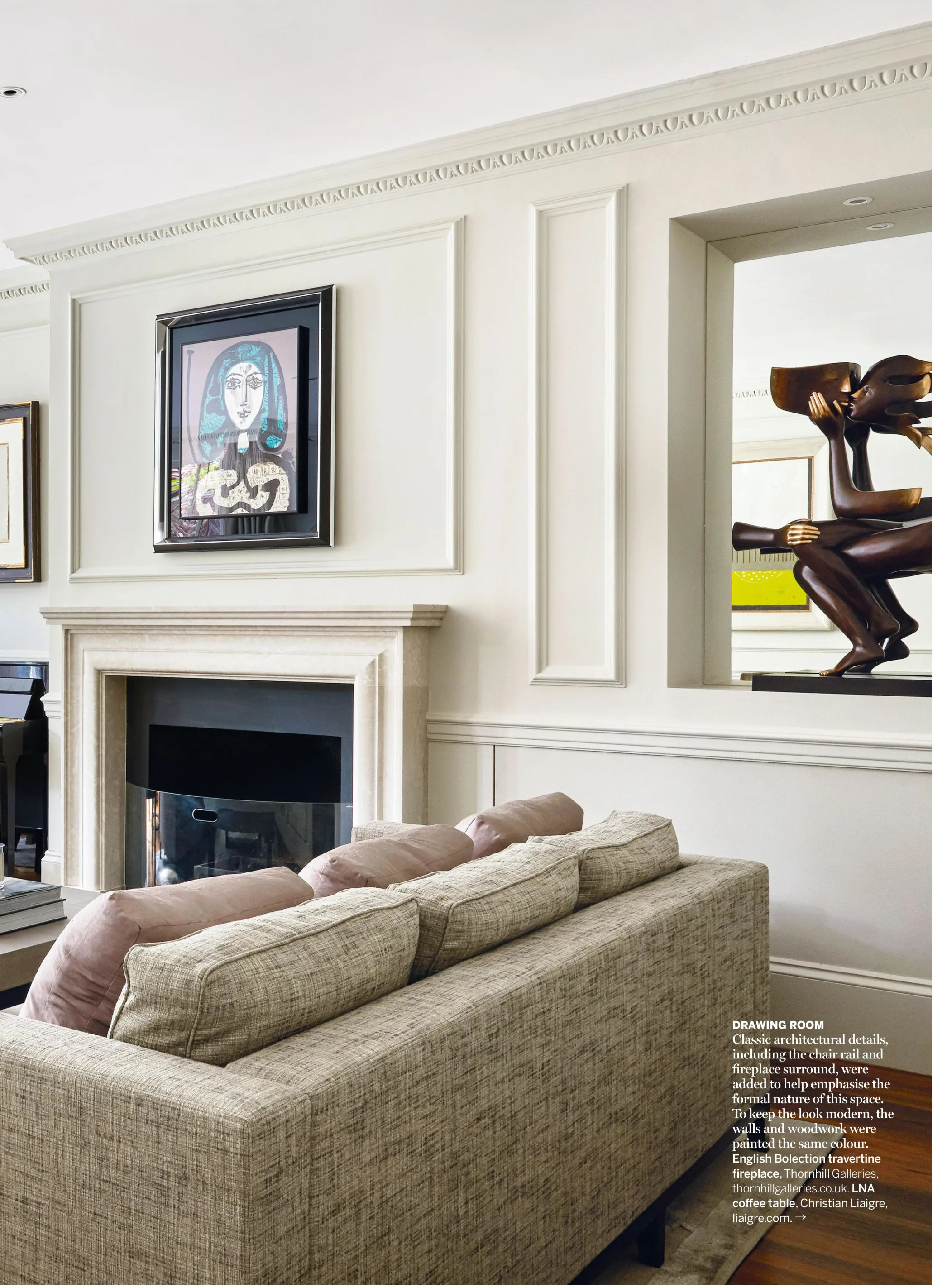
Re-jigging the floorplan also provided an excuse to reassess furniture and furnishings. 'It was a chance to create a fresh, contemporary look mixed with antiques,' says Sophie. Now a sprinkling of saleroom finds reside with bespoke pieces, like the Perspex console, a sandwich of Yves Klein blues, or a shapely coffee table; fluid designs that don't detract from the lightness of the rooms. 'This house has always been a refuge, but I enjoy it even more now: I've fallen back in love with my home,' says Jamie. ◼

MASTER BEDROOM Favourite maritime paintings inspired the cohesive colour scheme of the room, which overlooks the garden. Workstead **wall lights**, Another Country. **Headboard** covered in Zen Garden, Ferrick Mason.

In harmony

Meticulously planned interiors, a Modernist-inspired extension and a beautifully sculpted garden ensure that this renovated townhouse blends seamlessly with its surroundings

WORDS ANDRÉE FRIEZE **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAVIDE LOVATTI

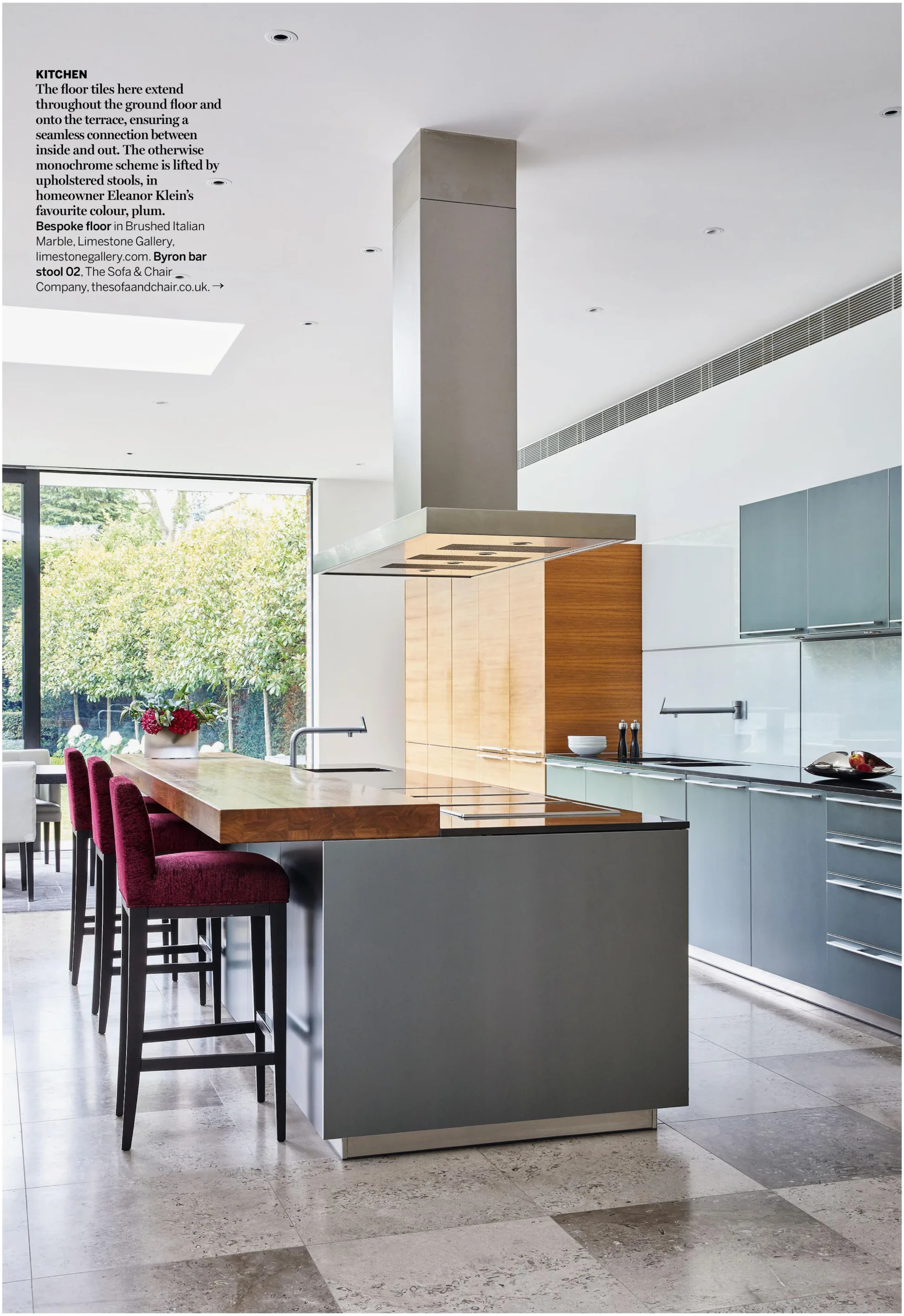


DRAWING ROOM
Classic architectural details, including the chair rail and fireplace surround, were added to help emphasise the formal nature of this space. To keep the look modern, the walls and woodwork were painted the same colour. **English Bolection travertine fireplace**, Thornhill Galleries, thornhillgalleries.co.uk. **LNA coffee table**, Christian Liaigre, liaigre.com. →

GARDEN
'We based the layout of the planting (above left) on the geometric grid that was designed for the interior,' says landscape gardener John Sallis Chandler, 'and we kept to a strict green and white palette to allow shapes and textures to stand out.'
Landscape gardener, Sallis Chandler, sallischandler.co.uk. **Bespoke lap pool**, Guncast Swimming Pools, guncast.com. **Architect**, Ray Thompson at Thompson+Baroni, thompsonbaroni.com.

ENTRANCE HALL
The porch was remodelled with new side windows and the internal glazed doors (above) were created to match.
Rounded Ridged lamp in Silver and Bronze, Louise Bradley, louisebradley.co.uk.

DINING TABLE
An articulated pendant light and chairs with low backs (left) were sourced to allow for an uninterrupted view of the garden beyond.
Trocadero dining table, Armani Casa, armanicasa.com. **Bespoke Cityscape rug**, The Rug Company, therugcompany.com.



KITCHEN
The floor tiles here extend throughout the ground floor and onto the terrace, ensuring a seamless connection between inside and out. The otherwise monochrome scheme is lifted by upholstered stools, in homeowner Eleanor Klein's favourite colour, plum.
Bespoke floor in Brushed Italian Marble, Limestone Gallery, limestonegallery.com. **Byron bar stool 02**, The Sofa & Chair Company, thesofaandchair.co.uk. →

For a sporty family used to the reliably good weather and relaxed outdoor lifestyle of Los Angeles, living in London might come as a bit of a shock. However, when work moved Canadian-born Eleanor and Michael Klein and their family to Britain ten years ago, the environs of leafy Richmond Park proved to be a worthy substitution for their previous home.

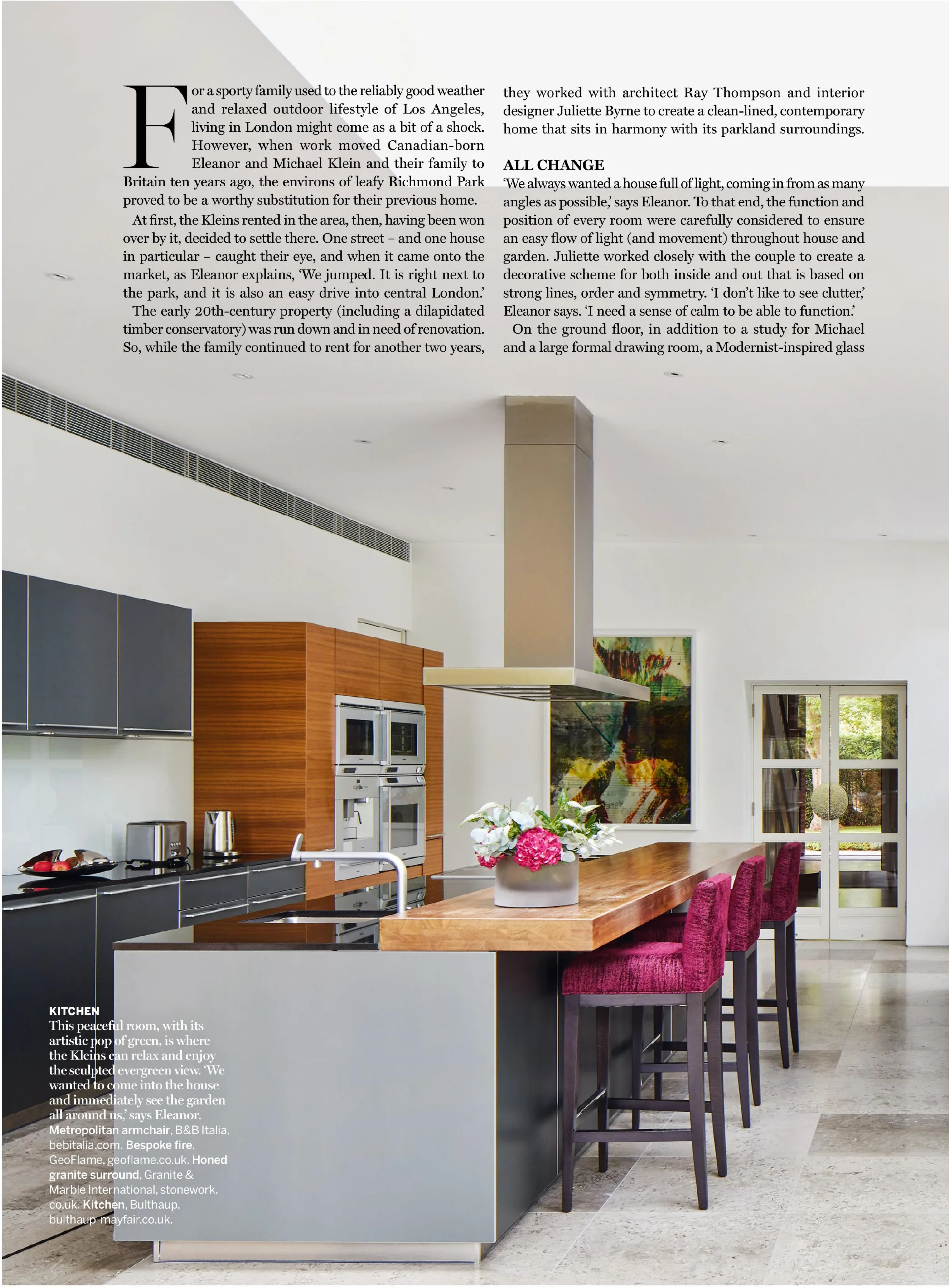
At first, the Kleins rented in the area, then, having been won over by it, decided to settle there. One street – and one house in particular – caught their eye, and when it came onto the market, as Eleanor explains, 'We jumped. It is right next to the park, and it is also an easy drive into central London.'

The early 20th-century property (including a dilapidated timber conservatory) was run down and in need of renovation. So, while the family continued to rent for another two years, they worked with architect Ray Thompson and interior designer Juliette Byrne to create a clean-lined, contemporary home that sits in harmony with its parkland surroundings.

ALL CHANGE

'We always wanted a house full of light, coming in from as many angles as possible,' says Eleanor. To that end, the function and position of every room were carefully considered to ensure an easy flow of light (and movement) throughout house and garden. Juliette worked closely with the couple to create a decorative scheme for both inside and out that is based on strong lines, order and symmetry. 'I don't like to see clutter,' Eleanor says. 'I need a sense of calm to be able to function.'

On the ground floor, in addition to a study for Michael and a large formal drawing room, a Modernist-inspired glass



KITCHEN
This peaceful room, with its artistic pop of green, is where the Kleins can relax and enjoy the sculpted evergreen view. 'We wanted to come into the house and immediately see the garden all around us,' says Eleanor.
Metropolitan armchair, B&B Italia, bebitalia.com. **Bespoke fire**, GeoFlame, geoflame.co.uk. **Honed granite surround**, Granite & Marble International, stonework.co.uk. **Kitchen**, Bulthaup, bulthaup-mayfair.co.uk.

box extension was built to house the kitchen, dining table and a relaxed seating area. Its walls of frameless glass sliding doors open onto a geometric garden, which was designed by Ray with a planting scheme to echo the monochromatic scheme inside the house.

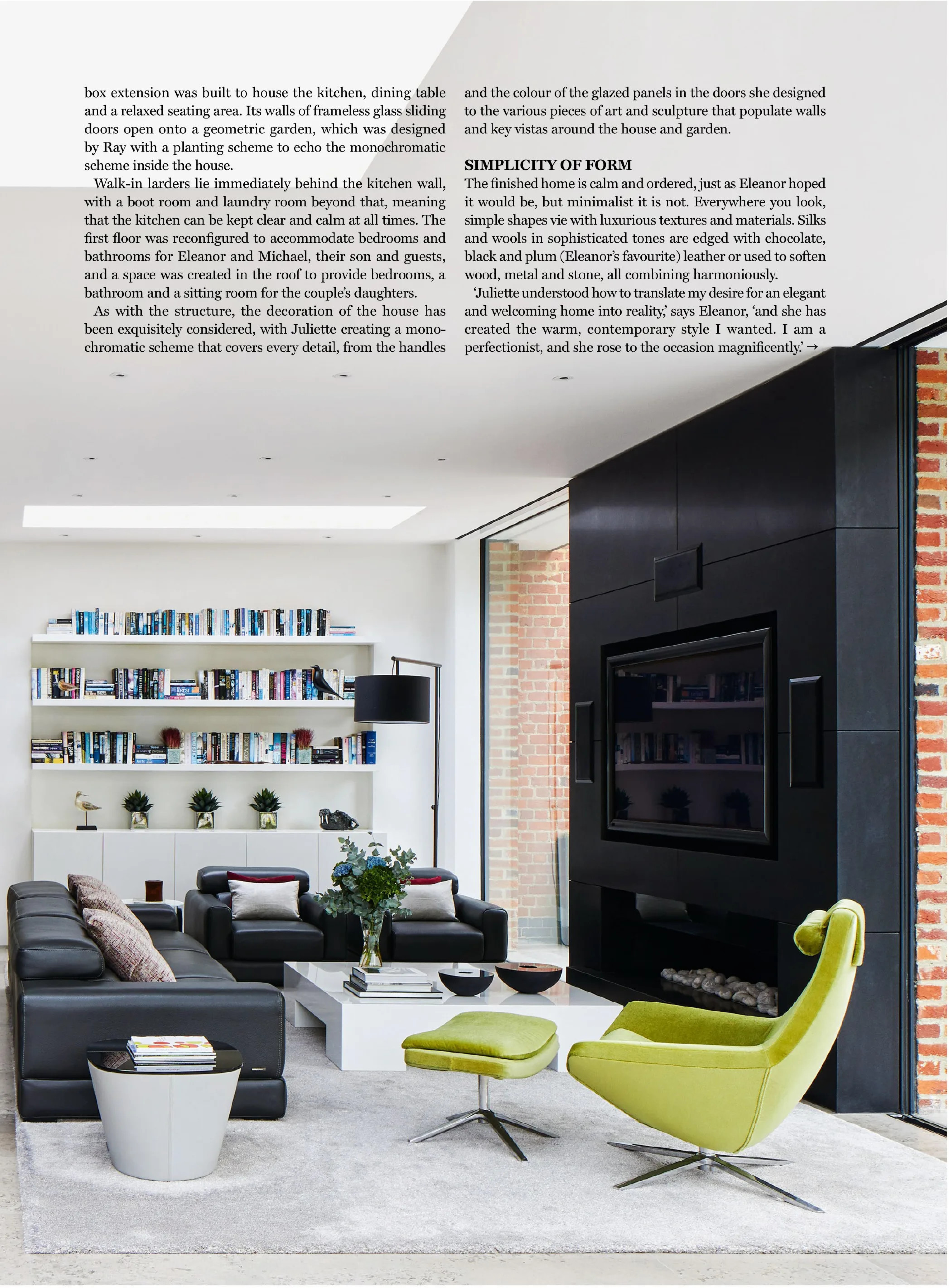
Walk-in larders lie immediately behind the kitchen wall, with a boot room and laundry room beyond that, meaning that the kitchen can be kept clear and calm at all times. The first floor was reconfigured to accommodate bedrooms and bathrooms for Eleanor and Michael, their son and guests, and a space was created in the roof to provide bedrooms, a bathroom and a sitting room for the couple's daughters.

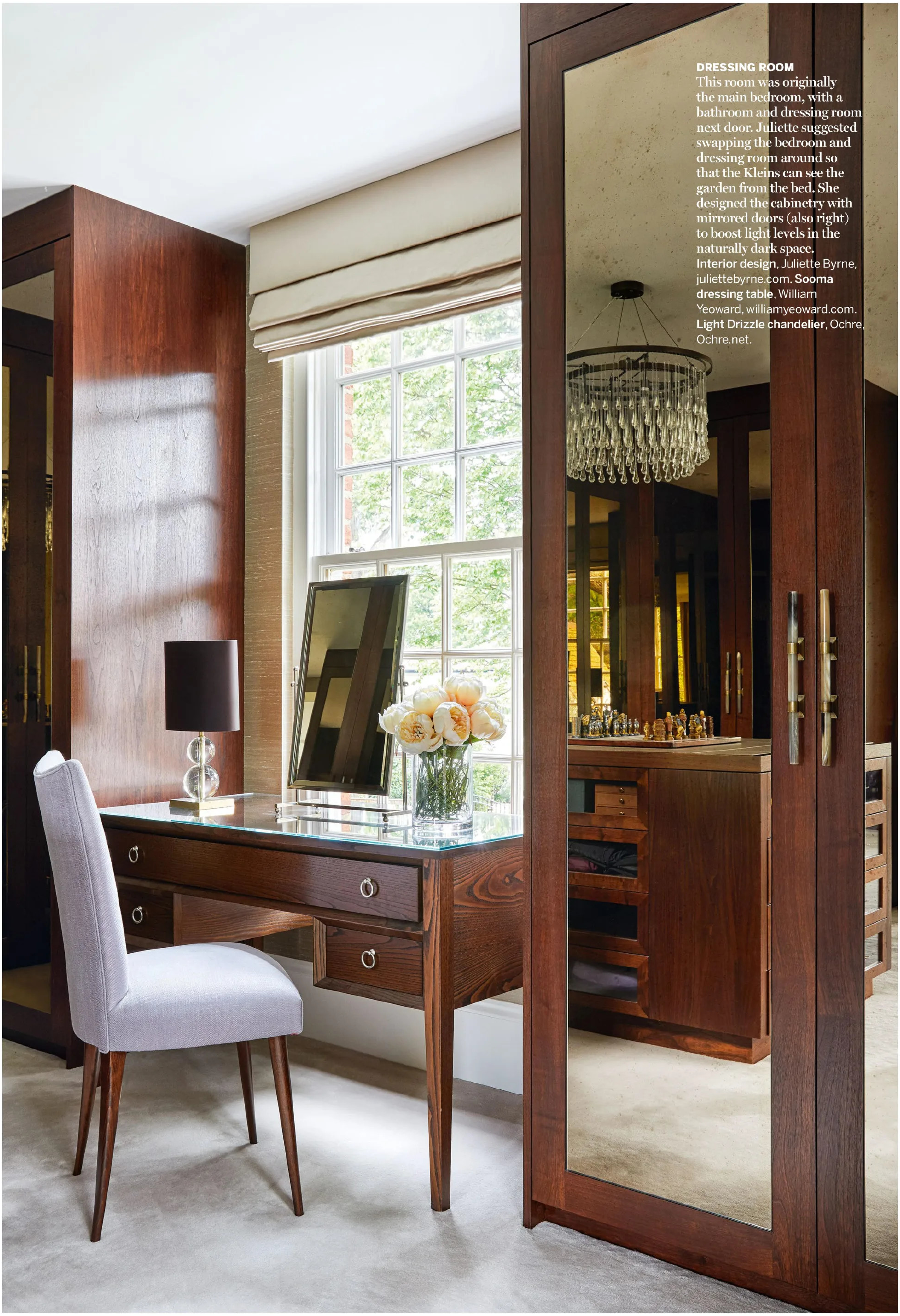
As with the structure, the decoration of the house has been exquisitely considered, with Juliette creating a monochromatic scheme that covers every detail, from the handles and the colour of the glazed panels in the doors she designed to the various pieces of art and sculpture that populate walls and key vistas around the house and garden.

SIMPLICITY OF FORM

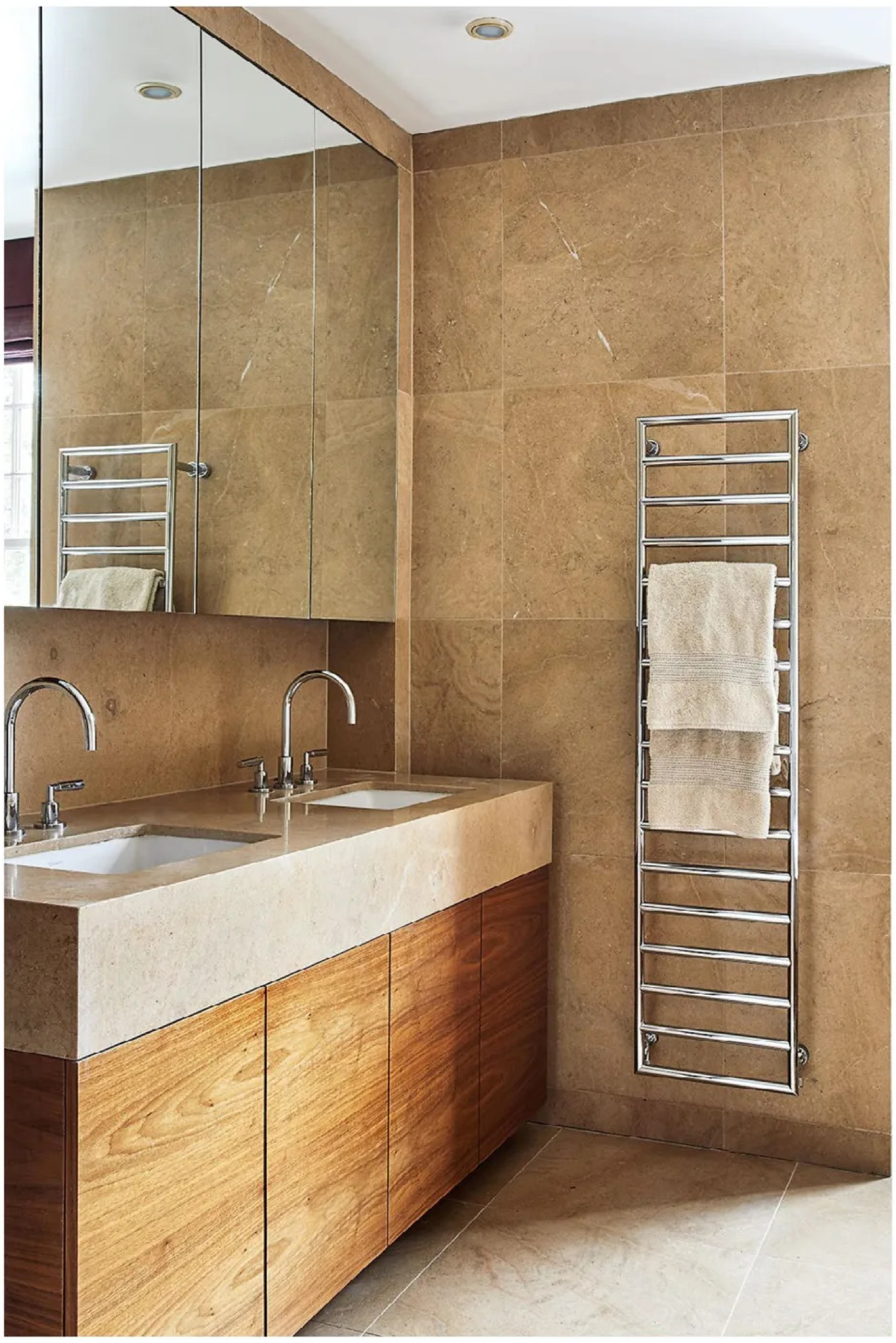
The finished home is calm and ordered, just as Eleanor hoped it would be, but minimalist it is not. Everywhere you look, simple shapes vie with luxurious textures and materials. Silks and wools in sophisticated tones are edged with chocolate, black and plum (Eleanor's favourite) leather or used to soften wood, metal and stone, all combining harmoniously.

'Juliette understood how to translate my desire for an elegant and welcoming home into reality,' says Eleanor, 'and she has created the warm, contemporary style I wanted. I am a perfectionist, and she rose to the occasion magnificently.' →



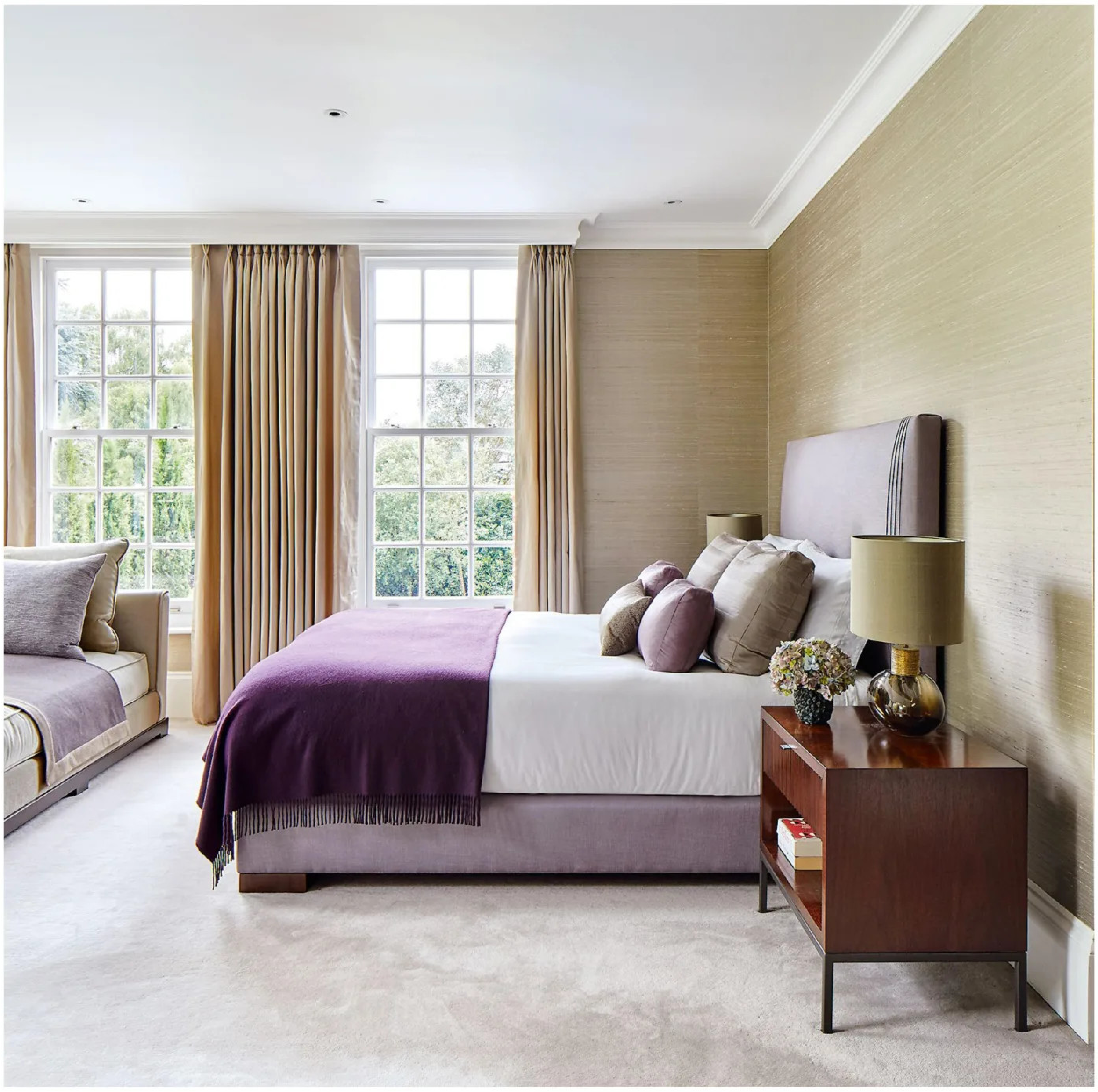


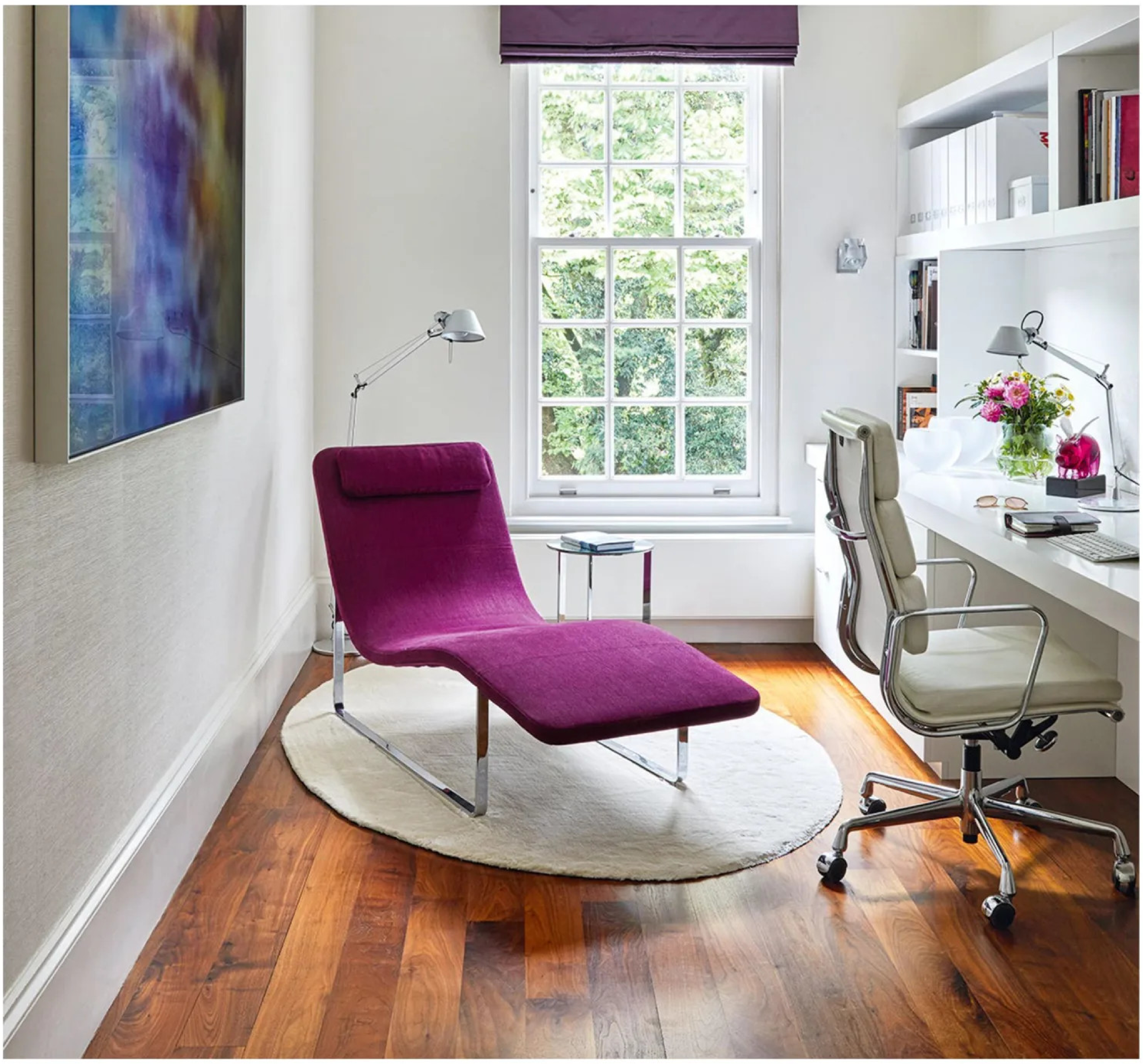
DRESSING ROOM
This room was originally the main bedroom, with a bathroom and dressing room next door. Juliette suggested swapping the bedroom and dressing room around so that the Kleins can see the garden from the bed. She designed the cabinetry with mirrored doors (also right) to boost light levels in the naturally dark space.
Interior design, Juliette Byrne, juliettebyrne.com. **Sooma dressing table**, William Yeoward, williamyeoward.com. **Light Drizzle chandelier**, Ochre, Ochre.net.



MAIN BATHROOM
Inspiration for this smart scheme (above right) came from the bathrooms in Michael and Eleanor's favourite Four Seasons Hotel.
Travertine wall and floor tiles; **bespoke French limestone basin unit**, all Stone Age, stone-age.co.uk.

MAIN BEDROOM
As Eleanor is not keen on pattern, Juliette chose grasscloth wallpaper and textured curtains to introduce interest and warmth to this room (right) and to soften the effect of the dark wood in the connecting dressing room.
Domicile Zoe bedside table, Bolier, bolierco.com. **Cologne table lamp**; **silk shade**, both Porta Romana, portaromana.com. →

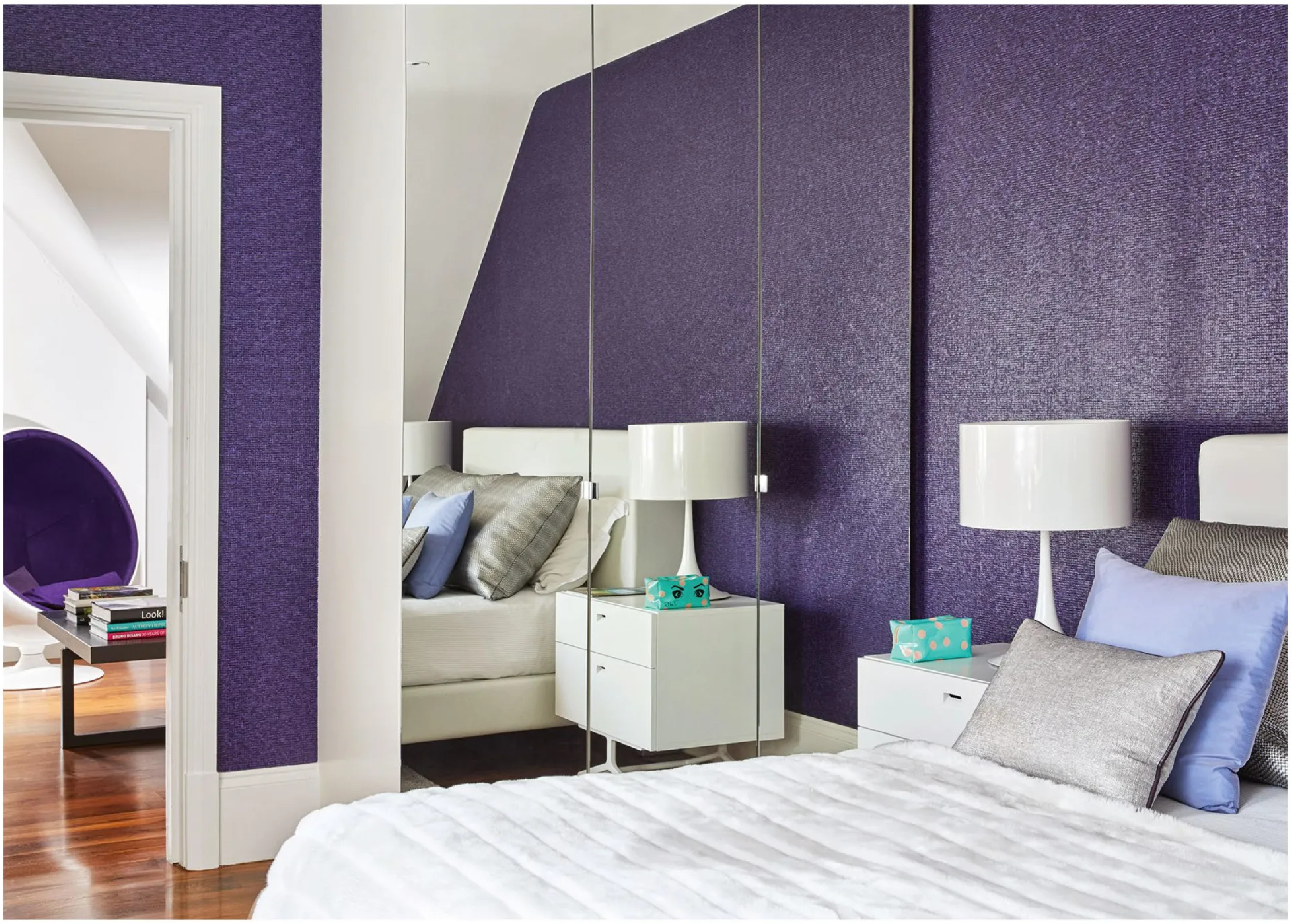




ELEANOR'S STUDY
To make this long, narrow room (left) feel as large and uncluttered as possible, Juliette designed a wall-hung desk with handy overhead shelving and used plum as a bold touch of colour.
Landscape chaise in Eden 601, B&B Italia, bebitalia.com.

DAUGHTERS' BATHROOM
A compact bathroom (right) for the girls was fitted into the apex of the newly configured second floor. Juliette lined the wall around the window with mirror glass to create a sense of infinity in the small room.
Opus Romano mini glass mosaic floor tiles in 12.60, Bisazza, bisazza.it.

DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM
The bold use of purplehelps to link the upper floor with the shades of plum found throughout the house. This room's distinctive 1960s feel is given an extra boost by the Eero Aarnio Ball chair, also in rich purple.
Spun T1 small table lamp, Aram, aram.co.uk.



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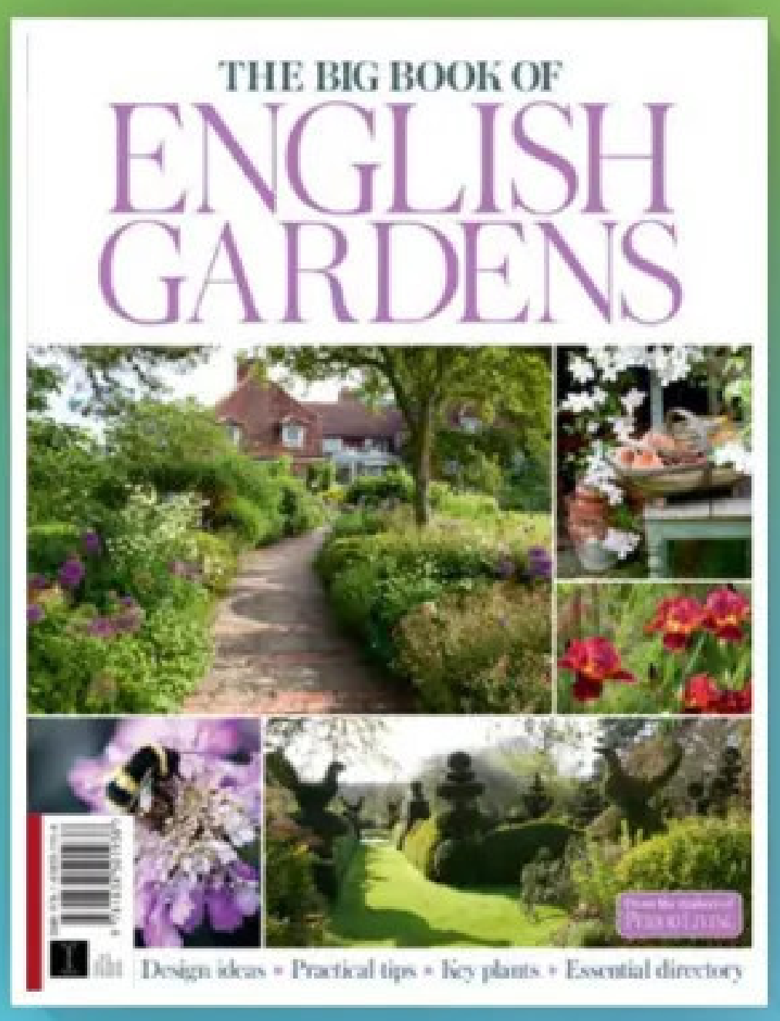
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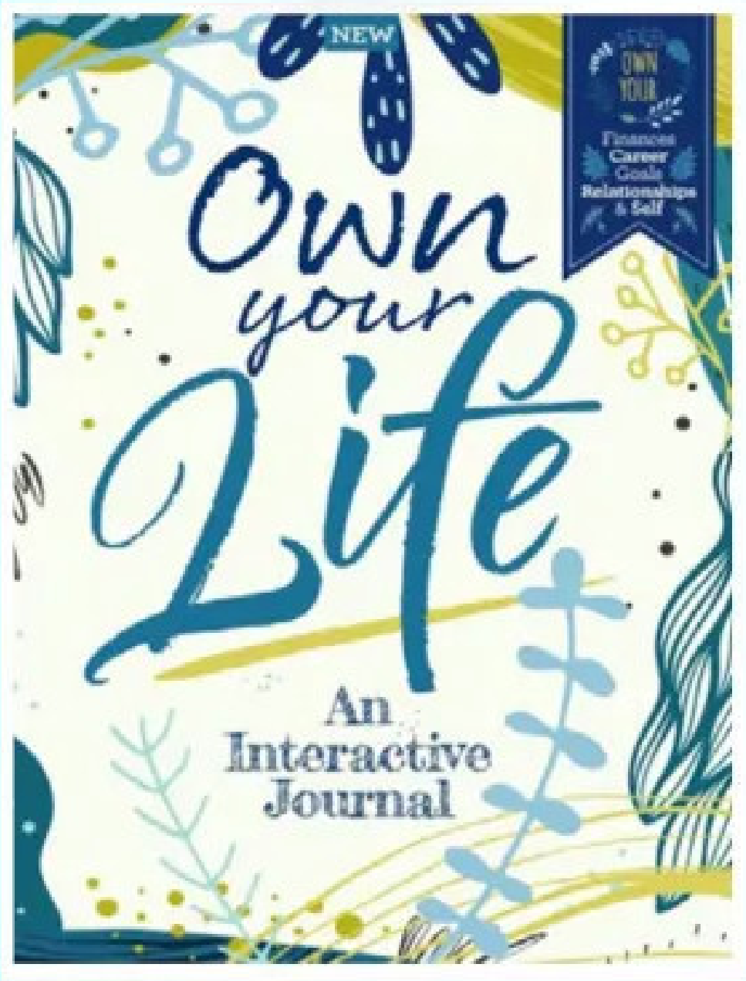
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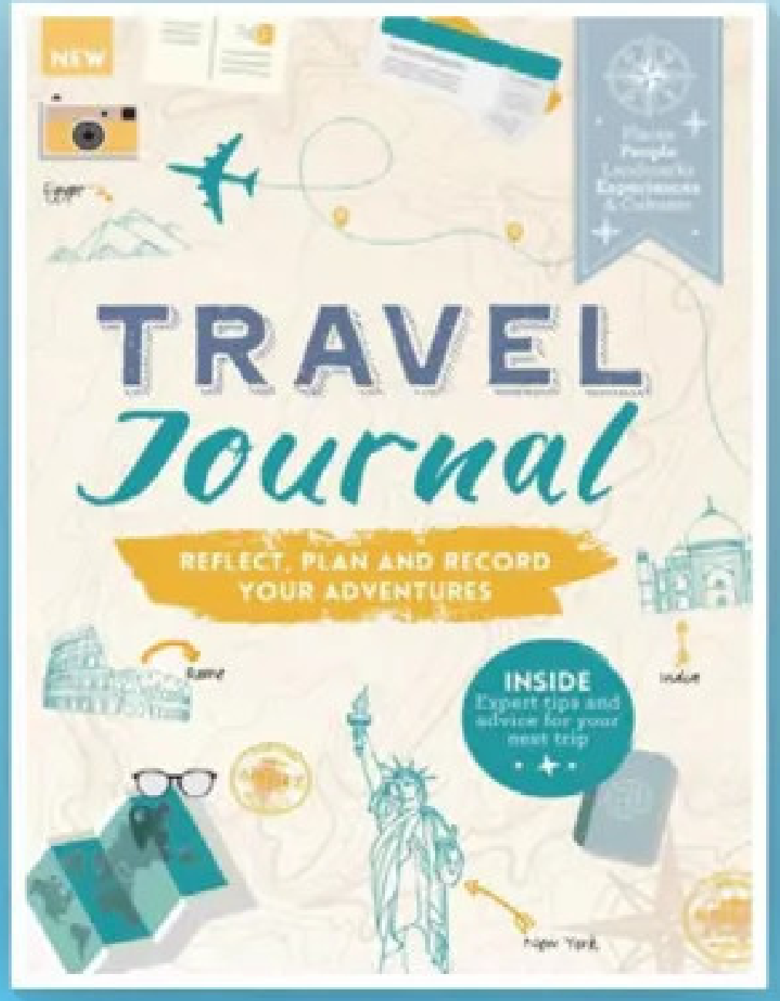
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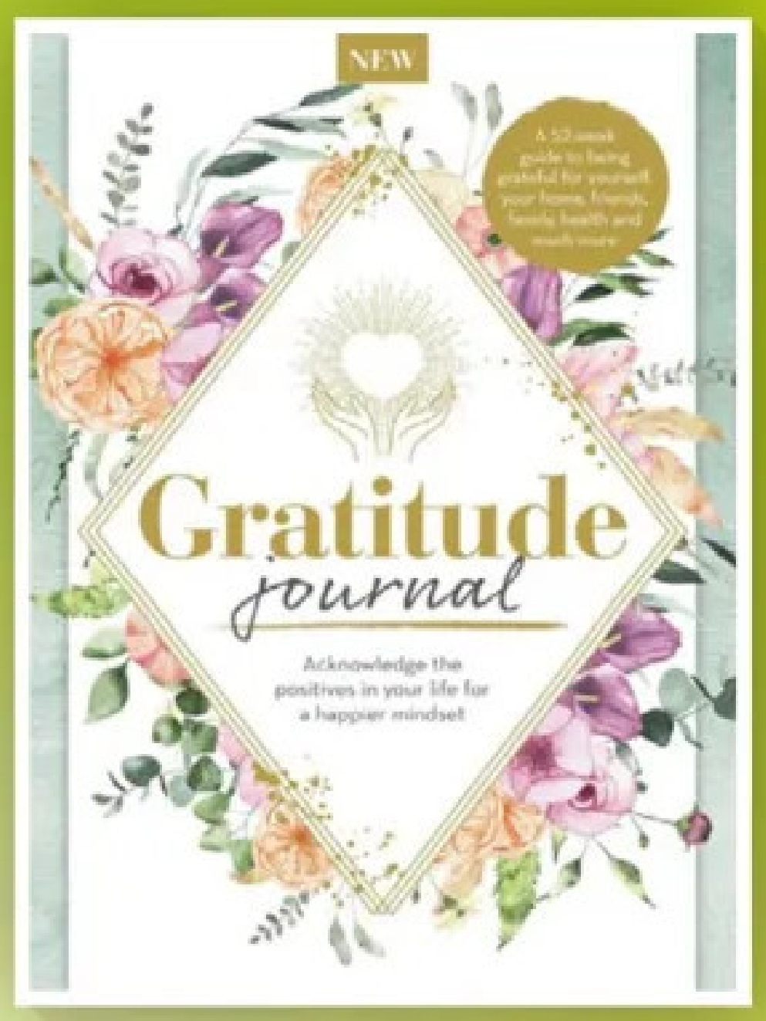
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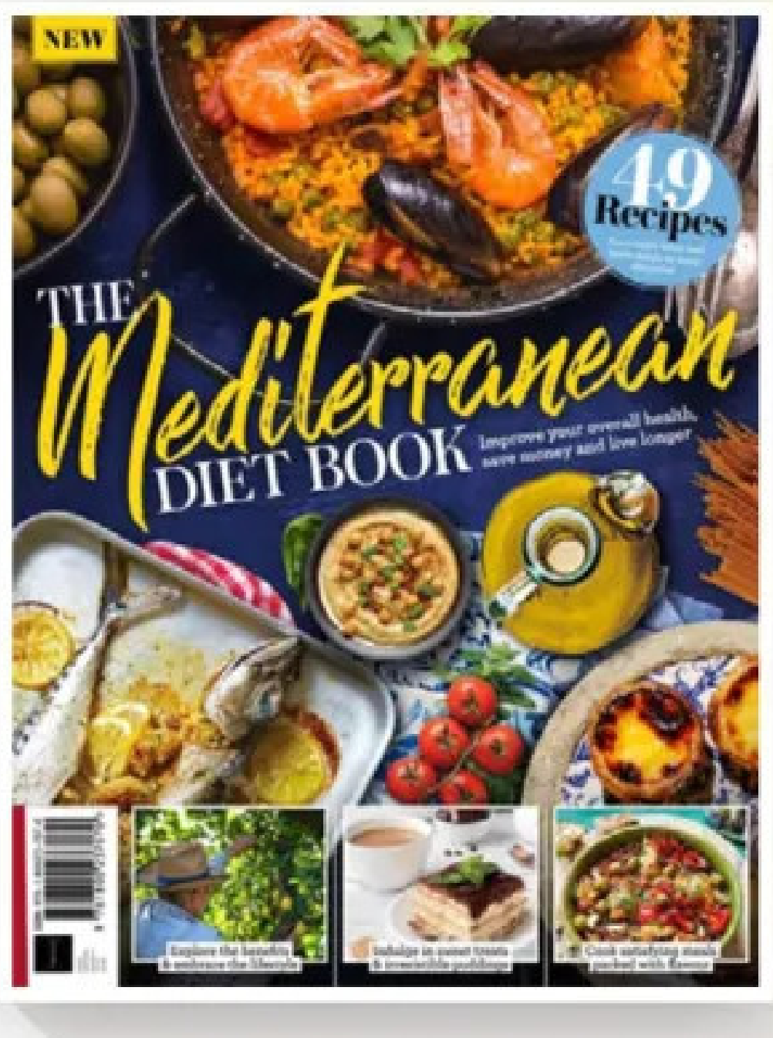
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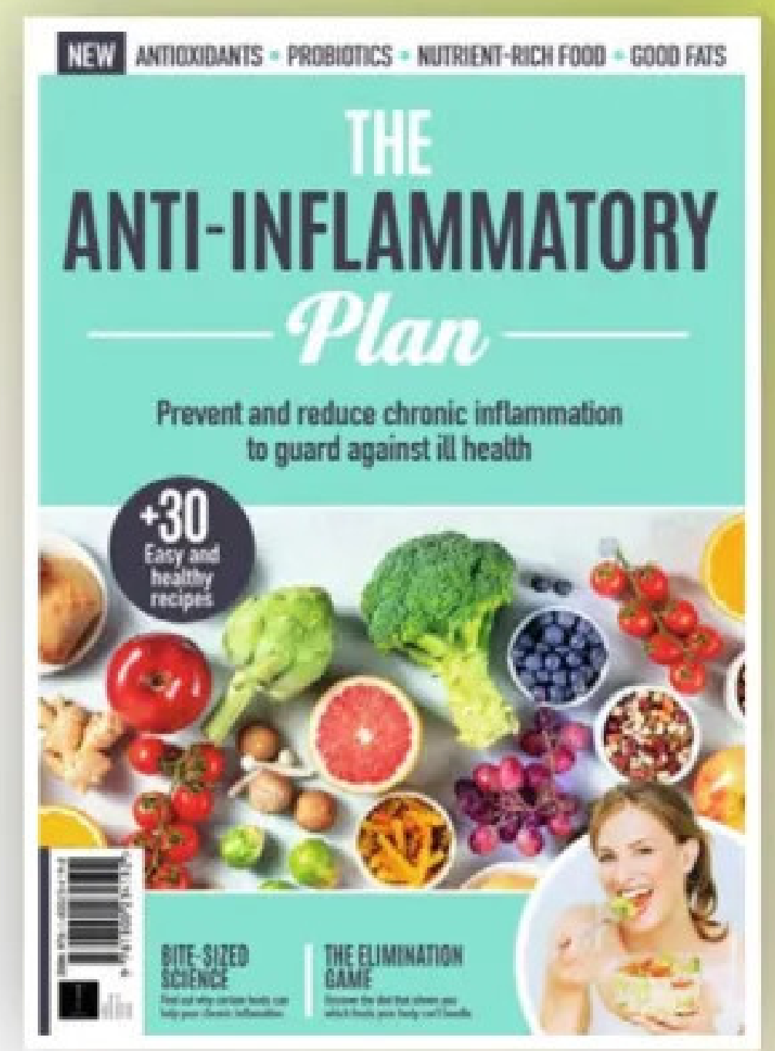
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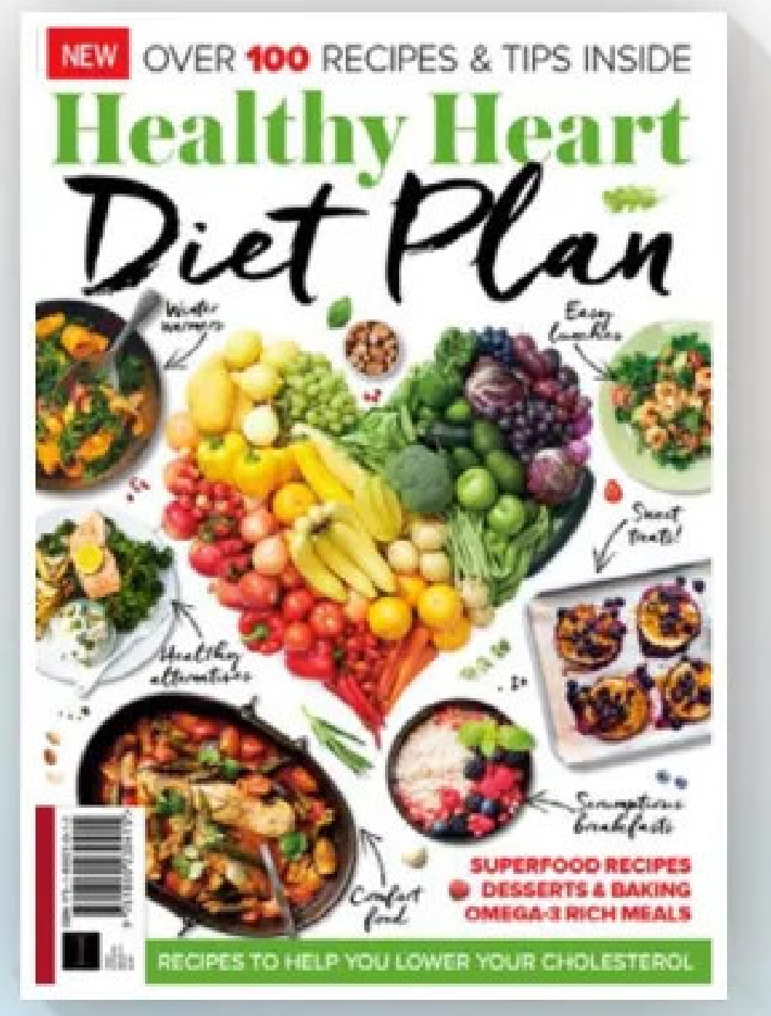
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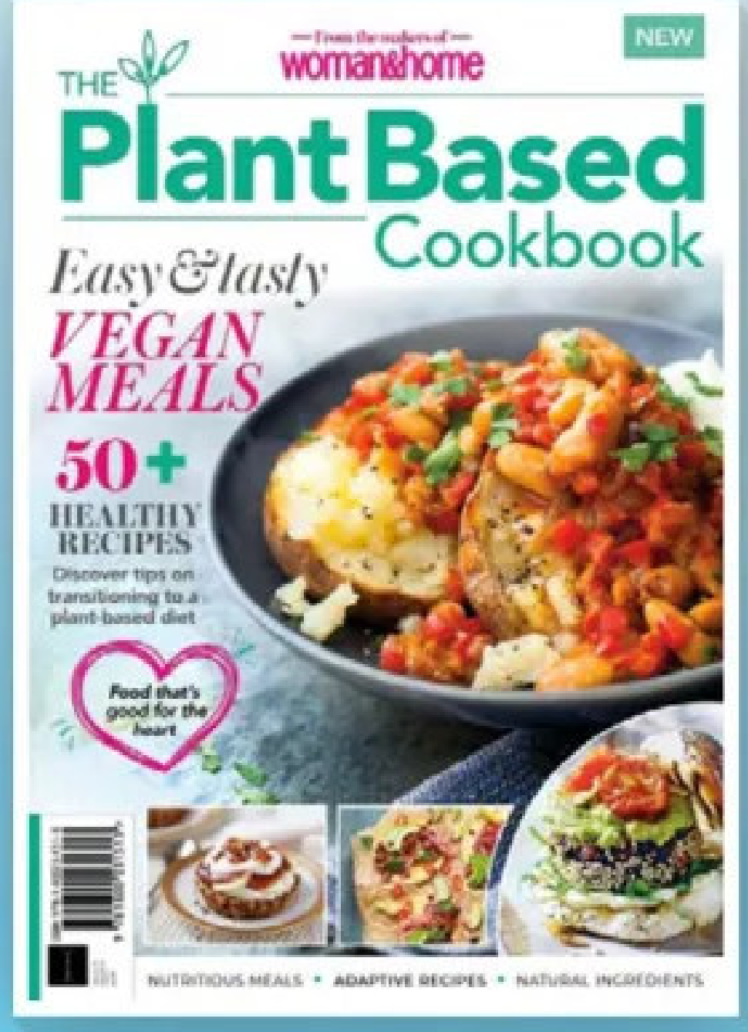
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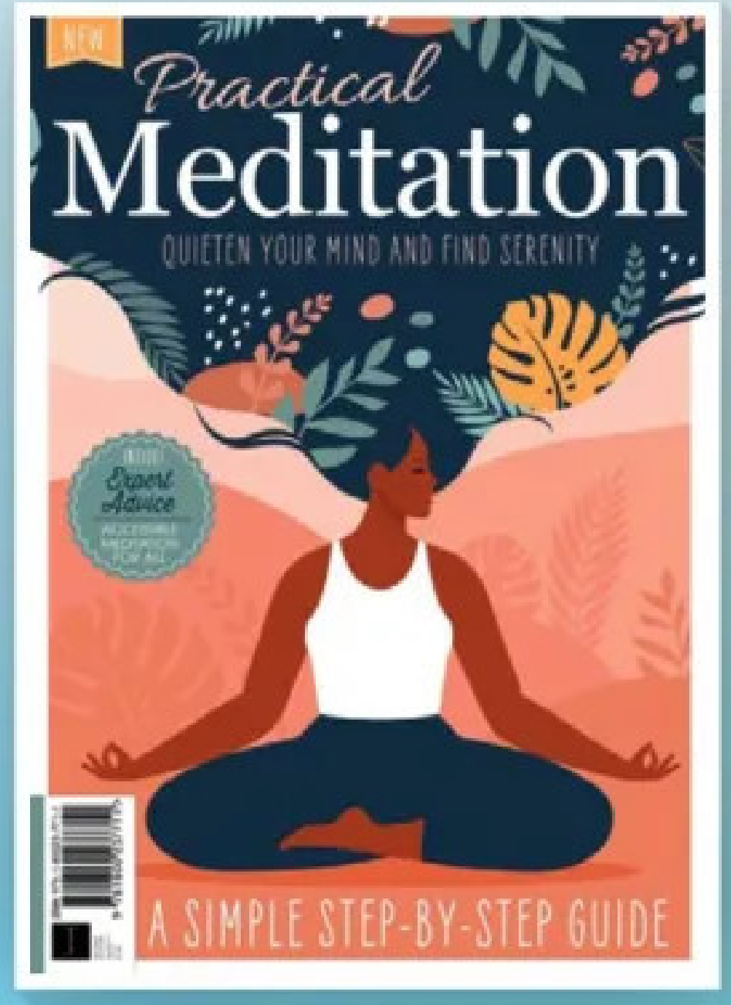
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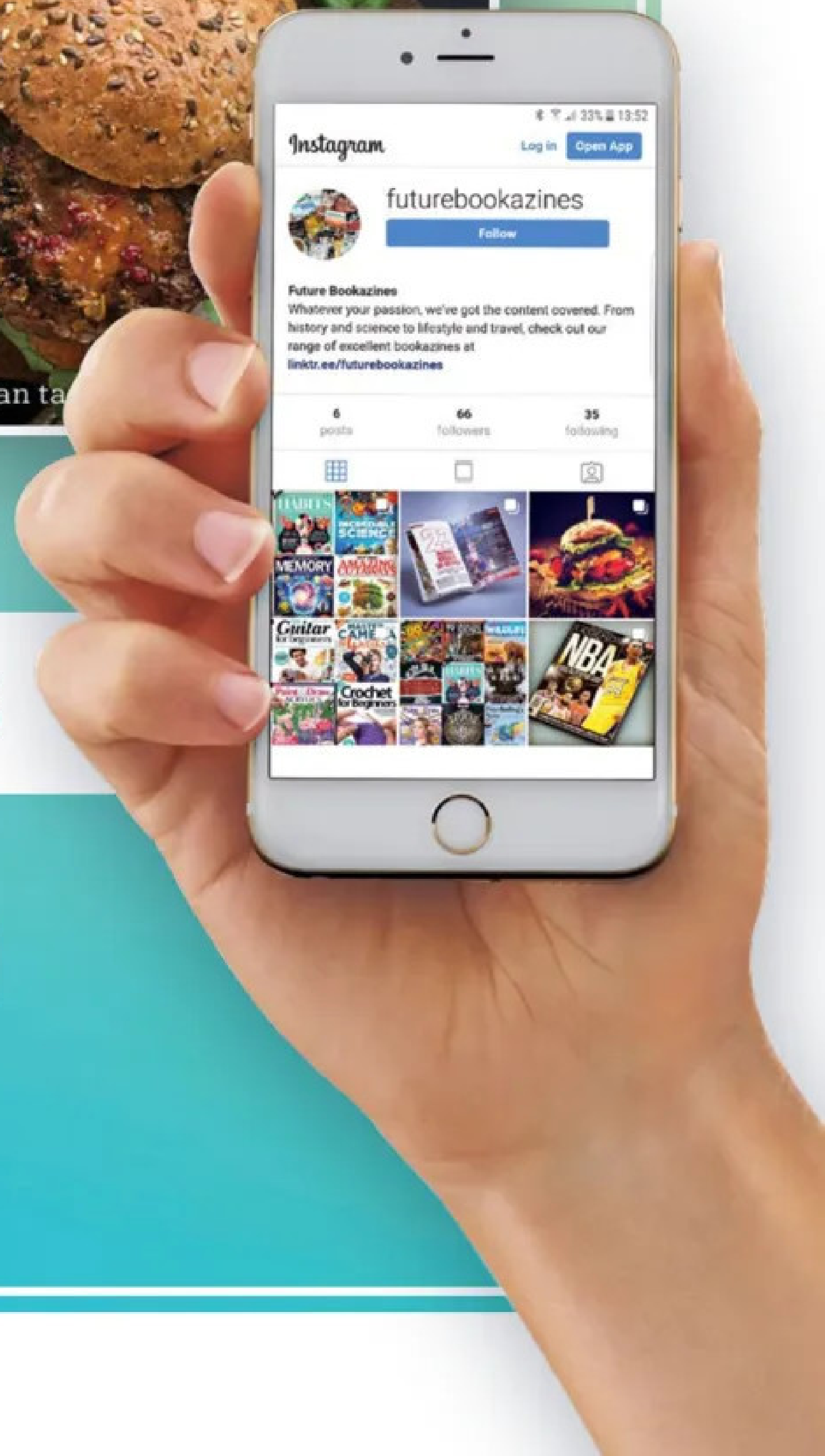
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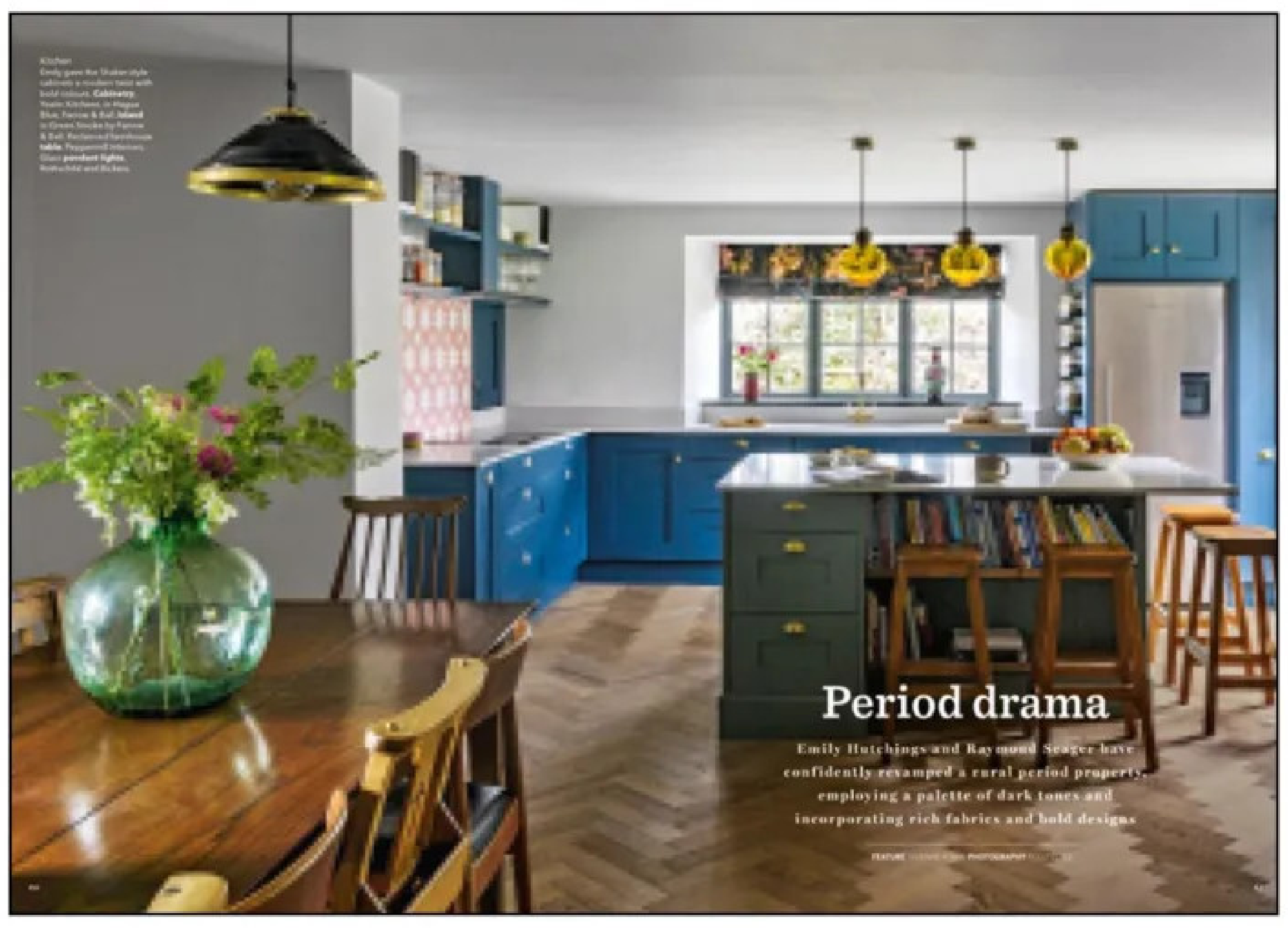

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